

*Boston, (in New-England) March 30, 1765.* Funerals without mourning, or the giving of English gloves, is become so fashionable, that there has been but one burial for many months past in the old fashion way. We are much indebted to those patriots who first set this example of frugality, by which this town only has made a saving last year of near 10,000*l.* sterling. Other towns and provinces have copied the example, and experience its utility. It is a pleasure to behold what other savings are made by laying aside a multitude of superfluous articles of British manufactures and British produce.

At the same time (March 10, 1764) the House of Commons resolved, that it was proper to charge certain stamp duties in the colonies and plantations.

This resolution was not this year followed by any bill, being only to be held out as an *intention*, for next year. It was proposed, and agreed to, in a thin House, late at night, and just at the rising, without any debate.

The assemblies of Massachusetts-Bay and New-York, were alarmed at this resolution. They came to some resolutions upon it; which, with a petition from each, to the House of Commons, against it, were transmitted to the Board of Trade in England. They were laid before the Privy Council on the 11th of December, 1764. The Privy Council advised the King to lay them before Parliament. They were never laid before Parliament—they were suppressed.

In the spring of 1765, the American agents in London were informed by administration, That if the colonies would propose any other mode of raising the sum intended to be raised by stamp duties, their proposal would be accepted,

and the stamp duty laid aside. (*See third volume of Remembrancer, page 253*). The agents said they were not authorized to give any answer, but that they were ordered to oppose the bill when it should be brought into the House, by petitions questioning the right claimed by parliament of taxing the colonies.

The bill laying a stamp duty in America, passed in March 1765.

The following was printed at the time as part of the Debates on the bill:

Mr. Grenville, after speaking long in favour of the bill, concluded with saying, "These children of our own planting (speaking of the Americans) nourished by our indulgence, until they are grown to a good degree of strength and opulence, and protected by our arms, will they grudge to contribute their mite to relieve us from the heavy load of national expence, which we lie under?"

Colonel Barré replied, "*Children planted by your care! No! your oppression planted them in America; they fled from your tyranny, into a then uncultivated land, where they were exposed to almost all the hardships to which human nature are liable, and among others, to the savage cruelty of the enemy of the country, a people the most subtle, and I take upon me to say, the most truly terrible, of any people that ever inhabited any part of God's EARTH; and yet, actuated by principles of true English liberty, they met all these hardships with pleasure, compared with those they suffered in their own country, from the hands of those that should have been their friends.*

"*They nourished up by your indulgence? They grew by your neglect of them: as soon as you began to care about them, that care was exercised.*