

cheering). Two-thirds of the revenue of which we are about to be robbed, is composed of taxes which we pay each time we drink a glass of wine, or spirituous liquors, or a cup of tea with sugar. Our consumption of articles which are totally unnecessary, is greater than that of the iron which we use in building, or in clearing and cultivating our lands, or of the leather and cloth which we wear on our persons. One year with another, we have not exported sufficient wheat to pay for the wine and spirituous liquor which have been imported. This error is sufficient to impoverish us, and enrich our enemies. To reform effectually this frightful disorder, we need not the assistance of gentlemen. They are too often sensualists; more attached to their wine, and their luxuries, than to the interests of their country. In all countries it is the mass of the people, it is the middling and poorer classes, that furnish the revenue. It is the upper classes that devour it. It is by no means the twenty or thirty dollars paid by a small number of families rich either from industry, credit, or speculations, that swell the revenue. It is the one, two, or three dollars, which a hundred thousand heads of families voluntarily paid, when their Representatives could regulate the employment thereof in supporting Schools, improving the Country, and which they will soon cease to pay, when they are insulted and robbed.— From the pretension of the British Parliament to plunder you of £140,000 without your consent, will soon flow that of despoiling you of whatever the rapacity of governors may urge them to demand. If you admit that this interference can be tolerated, in the robbery of the smallest portion of your property, you admit that you will suffer it and the robbery of whatever portion soever thereof a Parliament, which has sworn on its faith and honor not to do any such thing, may determine to wrest from you. And since it is disposed to commit perjury at the beck of the ministry, what hope remains to us, that it will stop short at any excess to which the same authority may drive it? It gave you the Declaratory Act of 1778, by which it pledged itself not to appropriate your revenue. Through respect for

this principle, it gave you, some six years ago, the first of William the Fourth. Lords Gosford and Russell wish that should degrade, by contradicting, and by repealing these acts, *de facto*, according to the wish of Lord Russell, expressly by a law according to the most ultra and tyrannical desire of Lord Gosford. They forget the deep disgrace which was imprinted on the forehead of George the Third's ministers when the Declaratory Act of 1778 was passed. The finest and strongest army that Europe yet sent to America, had just grounded its arms before simple American Militiamen unorganized and undisciplined: before good farmers, such as we still have, who know how to love their Country and shoot pigeons; who were strong only in the justice of their cause, but who were unacquainted with the first elements of military tactics. This formidable British army was commanded by General Burgoyne, a member of the House of Commons, who after having aided matters, by his vote and speeches, to prepare oppression for the Americans, lent his arm and his sword to complete it, and said, to crush them without any difficulty. Nothing was more insolent or more chivalrous than the proclamation which he promulgated on his entry into the enemy's territory, by which he allowed only a delay to its inhabitants to come in and lay down their arms before him, and to solicit pardon for their rebellion, or fall under the irresistible force which he commanded, or under the tomahawk and bow of his Indian allies, who, he added, were too numerous for him to restrain their fury. After all this gasconading; after he had lost the half of his army, he surrendered his arms before the time expired which he had allowed for resistance, to those whom he menaced with such brutal ferocity. That was a day of rejoicing to the people; a day of terror to their tyrants, who in their consternation passed the Act of 1778. Those who now demand the violation of that Act, double the humiliation of England by trying her on to acknowledge that it is not justice, but compulsion, that compels her to proclaim that charter of Colonial rights which she is now about to violate. (*Loud cheers*.) Is it then so painful

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