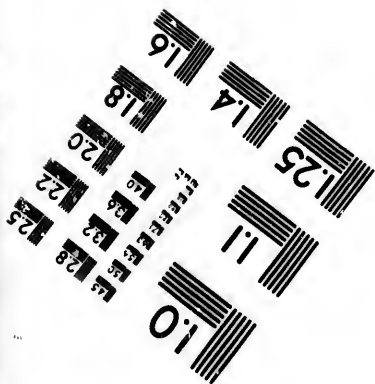
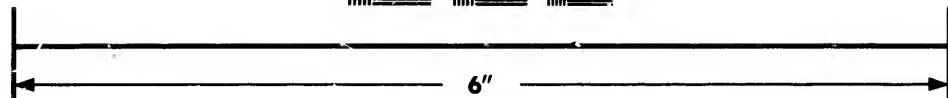
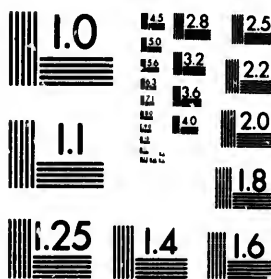


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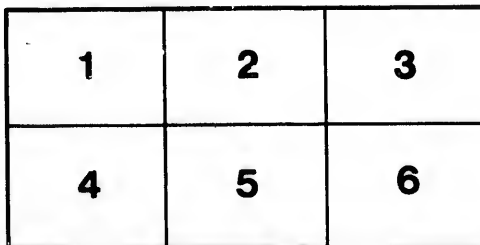
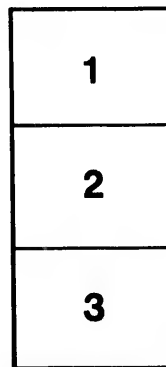
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# CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

MEASURES CARRYING ON

WITH RESPECT TO THE

BRITISH COLONIES

I N

N O R T H A M E R I C A .

---

The SECOND EDITION.

WITH

ADDITIONS and an APPENDIX

Relative to the present STATE of AFFAIRS  
on that CONTINENT.

---

*There is neither King or Sovereign Lord on earth, who has beyond his own domain power to lay one farthing on his Subjects without the grant and consent of those, who pay it; unless he does it by tyranny and violence.*

Philippe de Commines, Ch. 108.

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L O N D O N,

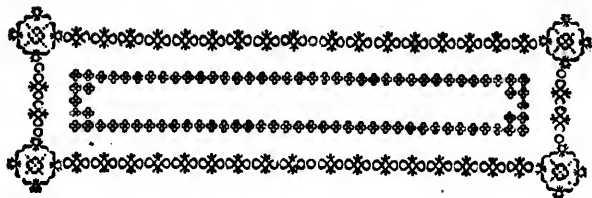
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\*†\* *The first Edition of this Book having been hastily printed in the country on account of some bills relative to the subject then depending in Parliament, there were in it besides many errors of the press some omissions; these latter are supplied in the present edition by the Author together with the addition of an APPENDIX.*

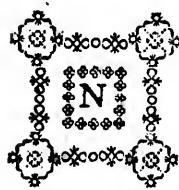
#### E R R A T A.

- Page 1, line 11, for *the* read *their*  
— 10, — 4, for *did honour* read *did an honour*  
— 113, — 1, for *fields* read *field*  
• An error in the paging from 56 to 65

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## CONSIDERATIONS, &c.



NO one knows, how far every person in Britain may be interested in the event of the measures now carrying on with respect to our colonies in North America. This seems to entitle any man on account of his own stake therein to speak his sentiments on the subject. The concern of the community gives to them likewise for <sup>their</sup> the better security a claim, that every opinion may be offered for consideration. These things result from the nature of a free society and particu-

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larly



larly from the constitution of Great Britain, where the people chuse one part of the legislature and where every man is supposed to have ultimately a share in the government of his country.

One point in dispute between us and the Americans is the right of taxing them here at home. This may be said to concern the power of our parliament. But so does every general proposition of right and wrong. When any thing is affirmed to be unjust, does not it include and is not it almost synonymous to the saying, that a law made to enforce it would be so too and beyond the proper power of a legislature? Vengeance and punishment do in the course of things assuredly pursue states and nations for their oppression and injustice; against the commission of which it is beyond question the right of every member of the community to warn the rest.

I say

I say it with submission, but the power of the parliament is the right of the public. The particular members of that most respectable body are in the statutes enacted by them no more personally interested, than the rest of their countrymen. These pass through their hands, but being so passed, they are themselves bound to obey them in common with others. They are indeed our trustees and guardians in that high office, but they will on that account be the more inclined, that every step taken or to be taken by them should be fully and carefully examined, like all other honest men earnest for the interest of those, whose concerns are committed to their care.

A consideration of the measures now proposed may likewise possibly lead towards some nice and delicate conjunctures or circumstances, whether of the present time or of that to come. But it need not

be said, that the writer only finds the one and guesses at the other; they depend on an author much higher than Princes. or their ministers, but who is pleased to suffer the actions of these to have most essential effects in the producing them. What can then be a more fit means to induce a due reflection on our proceedings and to insure from them a desirable success, than to lay before the public or the governors of it some possible consequences of their conduct?

We have not far to seek for the cause of the present situation of things between the mother-country and our colonies of North America; of the opposition and disturbances on the one hand and of the violent laws, motions and preparations on the other. These all undoubtedly proceed from our having taxed those colonies without their consent. A perfect affection and union obtained between us, un-  
 til

til this was done ; that attempt immediately stirred up animosity and opposition. However these subsided and peace and satisfaction were again restored on our staying our hands. We are now once more come back to the charge and the spirit of discord seems likewise returned seven times stronger, than it was before. Other broils and contests may and many no doubt will arise from this cause, should it proceed ; but this is the origin, the spring and the source.

The right itself of this measure is in question, as well as the expediency of it ; I will therefore presume to say something to that proposition. The inhabitants of our colonies in North America are supposed to consist of about two millions of persons. They occupy and possess a very extensive territory, much larger than Great Britain. They are not themselves the original people of the country, but

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they

they now stand in their place. They have in general been born and bred there, however they receive likewise yearly from other places many, who mix themselves with them. They have divided themselves into several different governments. They have according to certain rules or laws agreed upon among them allotted every man his own. They have felled the forests. They have cleared and tilled the land, they have planted it, they have sown it, they have stocked it with cattle. They have built themselves houses. They have entered into exchange and commerce. They have spared and saved for a future day or for their families. They have by many and various means acquired many and various sorts of property. They are by nature intitled to welfare and happiness and to seek and pursue those blessings, by all the methods not attended with fraud or violence towards others, which they shall believe the most probable to procure or  
ensure

ensure them. They have for that end a right to freedom in their governments and to security in their persons and properties. None are warranted to deprive or dispossess them of these things. Should on the contrary one man or a body of men advance any claim, which tended to enslave all the persons or to unsettle all the property of this great community, to divest them of every thing, which they possess and to leave them nothing, which they could call their own of all, that they have thus inherited earned or acquired; the very enormity, the evil and unnatural consequences of such a proposition would of themselves sufficiently shew its absurdity, weakness and unreasonableness.

These are all either primary, essential, inherent rights of human nature or such as do with respect to persons in the situation before described necessarily flow

and follow from them. Those were conferred upon them by the great Author of their being ; when he was pleased to endow them with the faculties of men, with the perception of good and evil, with the means of self - preservation and self - defence, with the organs of reason and of speech and with a capacity to associate themselves for their mutual protection and support. They are common to all mankind ; they subsist at all times, in all regions and all climates ; in Turkey, in Spain, in France, in Old England and in New, in Europe and in America ; whenever and wherever a number of men are found to be the objects of them, I don't mean that they are in all these places always or at this time possessed and enjoyed as they ought to be. But they are to answer for that, who do so commonly employ to the enslaving and oppressing of mankind the powers, which these intrust only for their protection and defence.

defence. However this is only abuse, violence and injustice; the right nevertheless subsists and remains.

It is not on this subject necessary to enter into any minute detail of reasoning or long and learned discourse on the law of nature. These principles are with us common and publick; they are founded on the good, the welfare and the happiness of mankind. They were the principles of our ancestors, of our grandfathers and of our fathers. They may not perhaps be at present in their full vigour; however, I trust, that they are not yet so worn out or lost from among us, but that they still remain the principles of the nation. They are to describe them by a word well known in our language the principles of Whigs. Whereby I don't however mean of certain modern Whigs, who seem more fond of the word, than of any thing belonging to the character; who



who have perhaps at one time or other of their lives counteracted all the measures and contradicted all the principles that ever did an honour to the name ; but I mean of Whigs before the Revolution and at the time of it ; I mean the principles which such men as Mr. Locke, Lord Moleworth and Mr. Trenchard maintained with their pens, Mr. Hampden and Lord John Ruffel with their blood and Mr. Algernon Sydney with both ; names, which must surely by all Englishmen be ever revered, as those of some of the first among men. But let me add, that they are not only the principles of speculative students in their closets or of great but unfortunate men, whom their zeal and virtue have lead to martyrdom for the liberties of their country and the welfare of mankind ; but that they are likewise the real principles of our present actual Government, the principles of the Revolution and those on which are established the throne of the  
King

King and the settlement of the Illustrious Family now reigning over us.

On the same principles rest both in general many rights of the Americans and in particular the right now before us. These are hereby involved and interwoven with our highest and most sacred concerns. We cannot lift up our hands to take them away without forfeiting our national character, without renouncing the tenets and maxims whereon we have on our most important and critical occasions ever acted, as a People, without declaring that we claim a right to resist and oppose all those, who oppress us ourselves and at the same time to trample upon and tyrannize over all others, where we hope, that we have the power to do it with impunity.

But it may be said, that these are indeed in themselves very true and commendable

mendable opinions; but that they are here introduced on subjects not worthy of them, a duty of a few shillings upon some sorts of paper or parchment and of a few pence upon a pound of Tea. Let us therefore more particularly consider the nature of the claim and pretension in question. Suppose then one person to have in his pocket an hundred pounds, but another to have the right to take it from him and to put it into his own pocket or to do with it what he pleases; to whom does that money belong? This needs no answer. Suppose the sum to be a thousand or ten thousand pounds? That makes no difference. Suppose one person to have a right to demand of another not only one certain sum or what he has about him, but as much as he pleases and as often? This goes to the all of that other. But suppose not one single person only to be subject to such demands from one other, but a number of men, a colony, or

or any other community to be so subject to the demands of some other society. What then? Why then that will go in like manner to their all. This seems to be so evident, that whoever shall multiply words on the subject, will hardly do it for the sake of being convinced.

But is this case, that of the Americans; for if it is said that the money raised on them is to be employed for their own benefit, in their civil service or military defence? Let me ask then, Who are in their case to determine, whether any money is at all wanted for such purposes; they who pay it or they who take it? They who take it. Who are to determine the quantity wanted? They who take it. Who are to determine, how often it is wanted? They who take it. Who are to determine, whether it is really laid out in the purposes pretended? They who take it. Suppose the Americans should  
be

be of opinion or declare, that the money so raised is used not for their advantage but the contrary; is that a bar to the raising? No. Suppose them to complain; that the money pretended to be laid out in their civil service is given to corrupt their Governors or Judges; is that a bar to the raising? No. Suppose them to signify, that the money alledged to be used in their military defence is employed in paying troops to enslave them and which they had rather be without; is that a bar to the raising? No. Wherein then does this differ from will and pleasure in the most absolute sense?

This claim affects therefore most clearly the all of the Americans. Two millions of people subject to twelve different Governments or more and inhabiting, possessing and being masters of a country exceedingly larger than that of those, who make the claim or in whose name it is made

made, have on this ground no property at all, nothing which they can truly call their own, nothing but what may at any time be demanded of them, but what they may be deprived of without and against their will and consent. It cannot therefore surely be made a question whether or no, this is a matter of such a magnitude as to deserve the most serious discussion; but it might here be without further words left to the immediate determination of every man, whether it is on the one hand a reasonable ground, whereon to put into confusion all the parts of the British empire, to throw the mother country and her North American colonies into the most deadly feuds and perhaps a direct war with one another or whether it is not on the other hand a proposition inconsistent with the essential laws of nature, subversive of the first and inherent rights of humanity, contrary to the principles whereon our forefathers defended

defended and under the sanction of which they have through many civil wars and with the deposition, banishment and change of many Princes delivered down to us the rights and properties, which Englishmen now enjoy.

But it is in this dispute very often represented; that a total and absolute dependence on the British Parliament without any exception whatsoever either with regard to taxes or any other is liberty itself; it is British liberty, which is the best of liberty. I answer, who says otherwise in the case of us, who chuse that Parliament; but that in some other cases, this position may perhaps be more liable to question. Our North-American colonies are as to their internal constitution a very free people, as free as the Venetians, the Dutch or the Swiss or perhaps more so than any of them. This proceeds from their Assemblies being not only the  
nominal

nominal but the real Representatives, of those whom they govern. These are elected fairly, fully and often. In these Assemblies their liberty consists and it is certainly true and genuine. But change the scene a little; let any one Colony be taxed and governed not by their own but by the Assembly of another; what is then become of this their genuine liberty? It is lost and gone with their own Assembly. Let all the Colonies be so subjected to the Assembly of some one among them. That won't mend the matter. Let us take a larger scale. Suppose this power over them to be lodged in the Parliament of Ireland. We are never the nearer. Let us come towards home. Were the kingdom of Ireland, under the taxation and direction of the British Parliament would they then think themselves to be very free? For an answer to this question enquire of one of that country. Place then the Irish under one of the Assemblies be-



fore mentioned. They would be yet further from home and it might not be better with them. Let us take our own turn. Suppose Great-Britain on the like conditions under the Parliament of Ireland. God forbid. I think that I have but one more point, before that I am at an end of my combination. Place over our heads with all these powers in their full force the Assembly of Massachusetts-Bay, what then? I fancy that we should soon change a certain language and sing another song, than what we do at present. Let me then most seriously question any man, from whose breast all candour and justice are not totally banished; where is as to liberty or property the difference between any of the cases now supposed and that original one which has given occasion to them. I speak this no otherwise than with the utmost reverence and respect towards our own legislature; but are we to conceive or would it be a compliment to them

them or does any one mean to say, that they are not men or that they are to be excepted and exempted from the reasons and the rules, which obtain and take place in the case of all the rest of mankind ?

One of the long robe may perhaps demand the exact time when these rights begin in rising and growing states to take place and how many years, months and days a colony must be first settled. I may venture to promise to resolve such an one ; when he shall tell me in how many years, months and days an oaken plant grows to be an oaken tree or a boy becomes a man ; which seem to be two much easier questions. The boundaries are seldom nicely distinguishable, where nature proceeds with an even and constant hand. But it is not difficult to answer that the event has already taken place, when near two millions of people are in full and peaceable possession of such a country as

is occupied by our North-American colonies.

It may likewise be asked, whether these laws are applicable to all cases of private property between man and man. But the full resolution of this question might demand a Spanish casuist or a book as big as a volume of our statutes at large. Any man may for me amuse himself with trying the titles of nations to the territories and possessions, which they fill, enjoy and inhabit, as he would do those between man and man about a house and garden and should the process in the first case last as long in proportion, as one does in the latter before some Courts of Justice in Europe, the defendants need not perhaps desire a longer or surer possession.

But may not these principles go far, if carried to the extent? That is indeed a very serious question and perhaps well  
worthy

worthy of consideration. Our colonies are content that we should at our pleasure regulate their trade provided that what we do is bona fide, really, truly and sincerely for that purpose and that only; but they deny that we shall tax them. They assent and agree to the first; but they absolutely refuse the last. These two different points do likewise not stand on the same foundation; they have to the one submitted ever since their origin; it has been corroborated by their perpetual and constant consent and acquiescence; the other is a novelty, against which they have from its first attempt most strongly protested and acted. Why cannot we therefore content us with the line drawn by themselves and with the present establishment, from which we receive such prodigious benefit and advantage now arising and yearly increasing? But may not they in time extend their objections to this also? The course of things and

the flux of years will certainly produce very many things more extraordinary than that. All the whole of our colonies must no doubt one day without force or violence fall off from the parent state, like ripe fruit in the maturity of time. The earth itself having had a beginning, cannot but decay likewise, pass away and have an end. But why should we be over-curious about objects perhaps very far remote and disturb ourselves about a futurity which does not affect us and the distance of which, we don't know nor can divine. Why should we shake the fruit unripe from the tree, because it will of course drop off, when it shall in due season have become fit and ripe for that purpose? Every time has its own circumstances, according to which the events of it must be provided for, when they happen. That cannot now be done. New and unreasonable demands, injustice, oppression, violence on our parts will forward

ward and hasten these events even before their time ; let us withhold our hands from these things ; we have never yet on this subject had reason to boast ourselves of such expedients nor, let me add, ever to repent us of the contrary conduct. There are no doubt in all governments many most important points unsettled and undetermined ; such in particular as relate to the limits between the power of the Sovereign and the obedience of the Subject. This must always be the case between Kings and their People, principal States and their Dependencies, Mother Countries and their Colonies. It is very much the part of every prudent ruler, whether the first Minister of a Prince or any other to avoid with the utmost care and solicitude all measures, which may possibly bring any such critical circumstances into public debate and dispute. It is always a bad sign when such contests arise ; they cannot do so without the dis-

order of the whole, but they are to the Sovereign in particular ever dangerous and often fatal. They may perhaps be compared to gunpowder, than whose grain nothing is more harmless, while it is at rest; but let it by the application of fire be put into action and it will make the wildest ravages all around or overthrow the strongest bulwarks and fortifications. To how many of these questions did our Charles the First give in his time rise or occasion and how dearly did he abide it! How many points of this sort are undetermined between Great-Britain and Ireland, which are now to our mutual comfort entirely dormant, but which started and pursued with obstinacy and eagerness might make one or both of the islands to run with blood. They need perhaps be no further looked for, than certain doctrines formerly advanced by Mr. Molyneux on the one hand and the law of Poinings on the other. But it has pleased  
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Providence to shelter us hitherto from this mischief. Many months are not perhaps passed, since we did not want an opportunity to have engaged in one such. The alterations of a late bill from that country were only accidental. However does any one doubt, whether some forward man might not have been found, who would have furnished reasons better or worse to maintain the claim of making them, if such an one had been sought for. But how much more prudent was our conduct on the occasion ? If peace and harmony are then so beneficial and desirable between Great-Britain and Ireland and the measures producing or insuring them good, upright and wise ; why do these things alter their nature, when they are applied to America ? The present accursed question between us and our colonies how long was it unknown or unthought of ! Who heard of it from the first rise of those settlements, until a very few years ago ; that a fatal attempt



attempt forced it into notice and importance. But it is now already fettering at work fleets and armies ; it threatens the confusion and perhaps the destruction of both countries and but too probably of one of them ; although God only knows whether the calamity will fall on that of the two, which many men may now imagine and believe to be the most in danger. This point is not alone ; there are other questions of the same sort, concerning which no man now disturbs himself ; but which stirred and started by new demands or any other means might in like manner band against one another Great-Britain and its Colonies. Princes and States never do better, than when their claims are not fathomed nor if I may use the expression, the bottom of them over-curiously founded and examined. The terms of municipal laws usually favour the Sovereign ; they are often framed or drawn by his creatures and dependants. The  
law

law of nature is more commonly in support of the people and the public; it is the production of him who sees with an equal eye, Prince and Subject, High and Low, European and American. God forbid, that two such parts of the British empire, as the mother-country and her colonies should in our times divide and contend against one another on the sanction of these two different laws, which ought in every state to be constantly blended and united and which can never without the utter disorder and confusion thereof be made to strike and to clash against each other. Whenever that shall happen, let us be assured, that we are turning towards our ruin and destruction, those very means which ought most to serve us for our peace, safety and protection.

I have hitherto on the law of nature and the common rights of humanity considered

sidered the claim of the Americans not to be taxed by us here in England. It rests firmly on that foundation; but I don't mean to say that it rests on that only. Could this be removed, there would yet remain another on which it would nevertheless stand sure and unshaken; I mean that of the Special Constitution of Great-Britain, which does herein most justly and wisely coincide with the general constitution of humanity and require that the property of no man living under its protection should without his consent by himself or representative be taken from him or according to the language of the times, that representation should go along with taxation.

But this argument has particularly been in the hands of the first men of our times. They have set it in its full light and their authority has recommended it to the attention of their country. It is well known  
and

and well understood and I am persuaded that it is unanswerable. But I bear more respect both to those persons and to the public, than to go over it again so much to its disadvantage. I will therefore beg leave only to assume this reason and to join it to my former; when the right of the Americans will stand on this double foundation of the general law of nature and of the particular constitution of Great-Britain.

However it has been said, that the Americans are in our Parliament virtually represented. How that should be when they are not really so, I shall leave to be explained by those who advance it. But God forbid; that the condition of British subjects should ever be such, as for a whole people of them to be in danger of being stripped of all their properties only by the logick of such an unmeaning word or distinction, as that is.

But

But what are then the precise bounds and limits of real representation? I will excuse myself from entering into that question. But will an American scruple to say; that if in any future time things should here at home be from their present state so far changed and the constitution of Great Britain so lost, that a great majority of its Representatives shall be named only by a handful of needy men; that they shall most evidently and most notoriously be both chosen by a corrupt and undue influence and be afterwards guided and governed by the same; will he not say, that it may at that distant day better become such a mock Representative to prove their right of taxing Britain, than to pretend to tax America? I will withal add as an Englishman, that arguments tending to demonstrate, that the House of Commons does not in its present state represent us inhabiting here, must be most strange ones to produce for the proving,

proving, that it does represent our colonies lying beyond the Atlantic Ocean; that such points seem much more proper to raise scruples among ourselves at home, than to satisfy and appease those of people abroad. (See Tucker's Four Tracts, page 103.) I could on this subject speak more plainly and explicitly, if I would, but I avoid it.

So much for consent and representation. But there is another ground, whereon the Americans likewise rely, which is that of their own provincial charters. I shall leave the particulars of this subject to themselves, who are best acquainted with them. However I will in general say, that these charters are no doubt in aid and assistance of the two sanctions before mentioned very properly brought for the shortening and silencing of disputes and debates by the producing the special authority of government. But they must  
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be interpreted by those before-mentioned and consistently with them. They cannot be construed so as to overturn the others. It would be the most downright absurdity and the most direct contradiction in itself, to talk of a Grant or Patent or Charter of rights given to any one to take away all the rights he had in the world, to confer on him the privilege of having nothing of his own now nor of being able to acquire any such thing in time to come, neither he himself or his posterity after him. Every thing of this kind must be understood so as to coincide with the original, inherent rights of any single person or community, whether as men or as Britons.

Charters would without doubt be for some purposes very effectual, if every thing would take place as it is written on a paper or parchment. Suppose a parcel of miserable people starved out of their  
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native country or persecuted and profecuted there, because they don't believe just what some other men do or pretend to do; that they cannot leave their homes without the consent of their persecutors; that they must take with them a piece of parchment; did their tyrants write thereon, that their descendants shall go upon all fours, shall be born with hoofs instead of hands and with instinct instead of reason and the faculty of speech and that these things would so happen; this might to be sure give very notable powers over them. They might then be yoked as horned cattle, saddled and bridled as horses or fleeced and sheared as sheep. The difference in the species would naturally and necessarily effect this. But nothing of it all will come to pass; this future offspring will notwithstanding be born with the nature; the qualities and the talents and consequently with the claims, the rights and the privileges of

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men. However suppose these strange terms to be on account of the absurdity of them dropped, but that there are instead really entered on the parchment or charter such an arbitrary superiority, such despotic and uncontrollable powers and prerogatives over these poor people and their posterity, as are only fitting, suitable and analogous to the former circumstances; will this in right or in reason be a whit more valid than the other or where is the sense or justice in demanding such enormous consequences, when we are forbidden the unnatural premises, from which alone they can follow? Suppose that it was on a paper or parchment written in fair characters; that the horses and other cattle of the New Forest in Hampshire should have to them and their heirs for ever the said Forest and it might be added to hold in free soccage of the manor of East Greenwich; suppose that dents were made in the  
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the paper or parchment and a stamp put upon it and that it was signed, sealed and delivered as an act and deed; what would be the effect? It will be answered that it would be a thing to laugh at; for how should brute beasts take property, who have neither understanding or capacity or any means for that purpose; that it would be contrary to nature for them so to do. But let me demand in my turn, where is the difference as to the effect, whether it is written that beasts shall become men or that men shall become beasts; that a herd of beasts shall be able to take and hold property or that a community of men shall not? The one is just as contrary to nature as the other. It might indeed be a happy day for despotism, could such things be done; but they are beyond its strength. The great Author of the world has for the transcendent purposes of his unfathomable wisdom placed in the hearts of men pride,

ambition, avarice and self-interest; but he has at the same time been pleased with his most benevolent hand and by the laws of nature and the course of things to appoint bounds to the power of these passions, which they can no more surpass, than the sea can exceed its shores.

So much for charters in general. However I will likewise say something concerning one particular charter before I leave the subject. When the havock happened among charters in England a short time before the revolution and which contributed not a little to produce that event, America was not spared. About the year sixteen hundred eighty-four a quo warranto was on that head issued against Massachusetts-Bay. Some of the colonies did on the like occasion give way and throw themselves on the pleasure of the King. Massachusetts-Bay refused to do this. They were ex parte and for  
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non - appearance condemned and their charter shared the same fate as that of the city of London and so many others. Four years afterwards the Revolution happened. As soon as ever the news of it arrived at Boston, the colony declared in favour of it. They took possession of King James's Governor and of the rest of his creatures and sent them all home to England. But then it will perhaps be said, they recovered in return their charter. Is there almost faith in man to believe otherwise? The other colonies fared well enough, who did not withstand the will of the King and whose charters had not been vacated in a court of justice. They put them again in execution themselves and no words were made. Our own charters here at home were likewise returned. But the colony of Massachusetts-Bay did not find the same good fortune. They went on that account first into the Convention Parliament, where

however they could not get through. It is well known that our Parliaments are not usually dissolved or prorogued, while any business is depending, which there is an inclination to pass. They had then nothing left but to beg and pray of the King's Ministers. But is it credible, that they could not procure the restoration of their charter of these Revolution-Ministers, of these Makers and Unmakers of Kings, who had so lately been on the same bottom with them and in whose cause the colony had so readily declared itself, but who had now obtained their own ends? Tired out therefore with delays and not being sure of the worst that might happen, they were in the end obliged to accept of a new charter mutilated and castrated of many of the most important and essential privileges of the old. I shall take notice of no other particulars, than that before they chose annually their own Governor, Deputy-Governor

Governor and Secretary. These were from this time to be appointed during pleasure by the King. Of what extreme consequence the change in the nomination of these their three Chief Officers has proved to them, no man at all acquainted with the name of Massachusetts-Bay can be so ignorant of their history, as not to be informed and sensible. Hence their differences with their own Governors there and with our Ministers at home. Hence their present military Governor and the armies and fleets now gone or going against them. Hence the strange provision said to be in agitation, that their blood may not be liable to be answered for there. They would otherwise in all appearance be at this moment in the same situation on these subjects as their neighbours of Connecticut and Rhode-Island, with whose charters their own agreed, until they lost it by their resistance and opposition to the will of the two last

Stuarts ; when the others saved theirs by giving way. I shall leave my readers to judge, whether it was the good or the evil contained in this poor piece of parchment which thus united against it Stuart-Kings and Revolution-Ministers. But this charter must certainly have been granted under an unfortunate planet, if what some people say be true ; that it is now again under a *dis*asure at home and on the brink of being once more reversed and altered. But that event has not on the writing of this happened. I am therefore perfectly perswaded, that should any thing upon that subject take place, it will on the contrary be the restoration of those its former privileges and powers, which was so unreasonably and so unjustly refused at the Revolution. But let any one consider this history of a charter and then reflect, whether mankind have not reason to bless themselves, that they have some rights of a higher nature than charters,

ters, superior to them and independent of them.

But are not we the parent country? That is a very respectable word, but so likewise is the relation of it mutual. It has always hitherto had its full weight with our colonies of North-America and will probably continue so to have, if we can content ourselves with any tolerably reasonable sense and use of it. But was every master and mistress of a family resident there the immediate son and daughter of a father and mother living now at this time in England; yet they being gone from us and having established themselves and got families of their own and having acquired a large territory, we could by no means even as true and real parents make out any claim having such consequences, as that which we advance. However the fact is very different; they left us in former times a part of the public, as well

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as others; they are since become hardly our cousin's cousins and no man knows how far we might mount towards Adam or Noah to settle the real relation between us. But was their history told, as it deserves: How they have made these their great establishments at their own charge and with almost no expence of ours: How we have ever had the total command of the produce of that immense country, so as to regulate the commerce and exportation of it merely according to our own advantage and convenience; that this is grown to be an object of perhaps no less than four millions sterling a year, all turned towards our profit: Could the extreme benefit be all set forth, which we have by this means received from the first foundation of these colonies to this time and the chearfulness, fidelity and loyalty wherewith they have submitted to this; the sincere and warm friendship and affection, which they have ever born us,

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while we kept ourselves within these bounds ; the assistance which we have received from them in war, as well as the profits in peace : Could all these circumstances be with very many others favourable to them told and represented together and in their full light, the story itself would bid fair to make these harsh and unmerited Acts of Parliament drop out of our hands, if we held them at the time. But however these points may be forgotten or overlooked by us, they are not so by the Americans themselves. They are sensible and mindful of them, from whom they have proceeded, whatever we may be, who have received them. Our neglect and indifference on the subject have with them the effect of poison upon our weapons. They make every wound given by us to rankle and to fester. Every stroke carries with it on that account a tenfold sharpness and acrimony. However at least don't let us extend a figurative and  
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metaphorical saying to the divesting of all their properties near upon two millions of people and make it at the same time a warrant for ourselves to hold towards them an unjust, rapacious and unnatural conduct, directly contrary to that of real parents towards their children and totally inconsistent with the expression, whereon we would ground our pretensions.

But how do these projectors and promoters of taxes and taxing hold concerning Ireland? Do they reckon that to be likewise within the jurisdiction of their ways and means and in the same predicament with America? Adventurers went formerly from hence, others succeeded, more followed, until they were masters of the island. It might be added, that this was done with a much greater expence of the blood and treasure of this country than our settlements in America ever cost us. The Representative body of Ireland is called

called a Parliament, that of America an Assembly; the term of kingdom obtains in one country and that of colony in the other. Is there any charm in the sound of these words which makes a difference or would the author of the Stamp Act have gone thither also; had the people of America shewn a facility to his first attempts with them and if the parliament of Ireland had ever made difficulties to his future demands there? Does any one imagine that learned or other arguments would have been wanting to maintain the rectitude of the one measure, any more than of the other?

But is there any medium? Must not we either rigorously enforce obedience from our colonies or at once generously declare them free and independent of all allegiance to the crown of Great Britain? To which I answer, if there is a medium between Great Britain and Ireland, why  
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may there not be also between Great Britain and North America. The claims of the colonies are not higher than those of Ireland. Certain rules of mutual respect preserved between us and that neighbouring part of the King's dominions keep us on the best and happiest terms together, terms of perpetual and almost unspeakable profit and advantage to England. Does this overturn the constitution of Great Britain or weaken the dependency on its crown, as some language has been? Why should not then forbearance, moderation and regard towards that a little more distant portion of our country produce in the one case effects consonant and answerable to what the like causes do in the other? It is most evident and may in general be depended on, that no evil consequences can happen from any condition or situation between Great Britain and her colonies, which does actually and advantageously obtain between Great Britain

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tain and Ireland. How was it there twenty years ago, before the first or the last of these taxes were either of them thought of? All was then peace, calm and content. The repealing the first of them, the Stamp Act, did that do any mischief? Not unless the reconciling, uniting and connecting again together all the parts of our government be such. There was hardly any where to be found a man, but who was pleased and happy in the measure; except a minister or two at home, who lost their power and their places on the occasion and except a few sycophants abroad, who hoped to recommend themselves by traducing and disturbing those, to whom they owed assistance and protection and who desired to fish in troubles, which they themselves contributed greatly to create. What evil star reigns then at this period, that these blessings cannot now take place, as they formerly did?

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I have on this subject no mind to play with the name of Ireland. I presume to introduce on the scene and to couple, as it were, with America that country only in order to expose the more plainly by the instance of the one some notions advanced concerning the other and at the same time to the utmost of my small power to recommend, inculcate and enforce that cautious, considerate, brotherly and affectionate conduct towards both, which I am sure that they each of them most exceedingly well deserve, whether of the government or of the people of England.

It is sometimes made a claim on the Americans, that we incurred on their account a great expence in the late war. On whose account have we not since the Revolution incurred a great expence? Our whole history from that time to this is little else, but a scene of prodigality in the  
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service of different people or princes, no way to our own advantage and for which no man can give any good reason. However I answer on this occasion with the fact. We did not engage in the late war at the request of the Americans nor upon any desire or inclination of theirs. The language at the time was on the contrary, that the less concerned the inhabitants of our colonies appeared to be about the incroachments of the French, the more reason we had to be jealous on the subject. I believe, that I may in support of what I am saying venture to appeal to those, who are the best acquainted with that period. Had it been otherwise, we should no doubt have heard enough of it. Substantial reasons might be given, that the Americans judged better in the case, than we. There may be ground for us to condemn ourselves for not having consulted them more on the subject, than we did, before that we were so hasty to

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take up the hatchet. However there is not the least pretence for charging to their account the consequences of a war, which we undertook without any instance and application from them and entirely of our own motion.

But the honour of Government is concerned. That is certainly an unaccountable reasoning, though not perhaps very uncommon; that if Government or in plain English the Minister and those about him do a thing, which had better been undone, they are therefore to proceed in the same road and do many more such, until at length the case may perhaps be beyond redress. Surely the more discredit is incurred, the deeper that people are plunged into mischief. The welfare and happiness of five or six millions of mankind or more is a prodigious object. Whoever puts himself at the helm of our State undertakes in a manner for that.

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We are all mortal and fallible. One in such a situation had need to march with the utmost caution, circumspection and foresight; should he make an unlucky step, it is his highest duty to endeavour instantly to retreat and to retrieve it. In the present case a gulph is before us, which will not admit of many steps forwards, but that the Government and the Public will both go headlong.

• But their outrages about the Tea. I presume these to be an object of discourse, as well as any other subject; how can they otherwise be discussed and considered? However I shall without declaring any opinion of my own take them up only in the light, as they may appear to an American. He will certainly say, that these receive their complexion from the claim of the colonies not to be taxed by us and accordingly as that shall be grounded or not. If that is not well founded, that

then their whole opposition is unlawful, whether force and violence or only concert and combination. That the former may indeed be productive of more mischief than the latter, but that they are on such a supposition both of them entirely unwarrantable. I would willingly in this case write freely but without offence ; he would therefore certainly add, that should the Americans on the other hand have a real right not to be so taxed, they are undoubtedly intitled likewise to the necessary means of using and enjoying that right. That this is a rule of the law of nature as well as of the law of the land or rather that the latter has only borrowed it from the former. I speak with submission ; but he would without doubt proceed, that the means used on this occasion were absolutely those necessary ones and no other ; that an object was artfully or judicially chosen for this tax, which is so constant a part of diet or luxury, that

that it was totally impossible to prevent the tax from taking place without hindering the commodity itself from being introduced; that therefore the Americans must absolutely do that or lose their right; that the endeavouring so to do only by a general concert and agreement would have been no better than building a city out of the sands of the sea; that thereupon the town of Boston did at a sort of public meeting use every instance and application possible both with the Captains of the tea ships and with the Governor, that the tea might be returned, untouched and damaged as it came; that this would have secured their right and they desired no more; that this was absolutely refused; that there was thereupon no expedient left for the preserving their right but destroying the tea; that this was without any express authority of the town done by private people, but in all appearance with the general inclination

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tion and with the least mischief and damage possible; that there was some tea spilt, but no blood; that this refers the whole to the first and original question of the right; that the Americans make thereon the same claim, as the people of Scotland would have in an essential circumstance of the Union or those of Ireland, should the line observed between them and Great Britain be passed in any point, which would affect their whole interest and welfare, as a nation; that a right in any case whatsoever and an absolute duty of passive obedience and non-resistance in the same are inconsistent terms, a direct contradiction and totally unintelligible; that in the other colonies the Governors and Captains consented to the sending back the tea or to the shutting it up in such a manner as never to be sold or dispersed; that these did not therefore in their cases make immediate force necessary, but that their act was in effect the same and stands

on the same ground. That there is nothing malignant in the whole matter, nothing but a determined desire to support this their great and necessary right. This is no doubt the American idea, as appears by many proofs and papers from that side of the water. I shall myself presume to speak no opinion in the case, much less will I again call on the manes of our ancestors in support of this pretension. But should it be observed, that it ends in a question, which concerns the bounds and the limits of government; I cannot on the occasion but repeat and enforce by this example the remark before made, of how dangerous and deadly a nature the disputes and contests are, which lead thither.

So much for the rectitude of taxing the Americans. But I may be told, that I have not yet touched the true point, that I have been doing little more, than a man, who rides post out of his road. That

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Statesmen and Politicians do indeed sometimes talk of the right and wrong, of the justice and injustice of measures; but that this is all only ostensible reasoning, while there may at the bottom be nothing, which they really care less about. That the Great do every where bear hard on the Little, the Strong on the Weak. That the hawk hunts the partridge, the lion the wolf and the wolf the lamb; that powerful Princes and States oppress the Helpless and the High and the Rich those beneath them; that this is the chapter of the law of nature and nations, which we intend to consult and to follow; that we want money at home; that our debts are very heavy and our resources but too nearly at an end; that we have yet fleets and armies and are determined to bend to our will our colonies of America and to make them subservient to our wants and occasions; that this is at the bottom and that all my casuistry may in the mean time  
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serve the purposes of grocers and pastry-cooks; that when people write about matters of state, they ought to do it like men. It is very well; I join issue hereon, only don't let us go too fast; one thing at a time.

I answer that you cannot force them nor is there any appearance that you can. The number of free people in those colonies is reckoned at towards two millions. The common calculation is of one fencible or fighting man in five persons and this is supposed to be rather under than over the truth. This will give us at least between three and four hundred thousand fighting men on the number before mentioned. Mr. Rome goes so far as to tell us in some letters &c. lately published in opposition to the colonies; "that there  
 " is hardly any thing more common, than  
 " to hear them boast of particular colo-  
 " nies that can raise on a short notice a



“ hundred thousand fighting men.” The country is itself in some respects a very strong one, more so than any in Europe or the better cultivated parts of the world. It is not on the side of the sea guarded with forts and castles built by men, but it is within secured and protected by the natural fortifications of immense forests and of large rivers. What expectation or probability then can there be of sending from hence armies capable to conquer and subdue so great a force of men defending and defended by such a continent.

But can they arm so many? In any country very greatly taxed and much more so than its inhabitants would willingly bear with, it is impossible consistently with such a state of things to arm the whole body of the people. These might be apt to count noses and to consider, who were the stronger, they themselves or the Tax-gatherers and the Red-coats

coats or White-coats or Black-coats or any other, who support them. - The difficulty would be yet greater, were there any further dissatisfaction. But these are all democratical governments, where the power is in the hands of the people and where there is not the least difficulty or jealousy about putting arms into the hands of every man in the country.

But are they united among themselves? In the cause of not being taxed by us it is well understood, how much they are so. All accounts and reports from thence of all men and of all parties run in that stile and concur in that circumstance. It was so experienced to a very great degree concerning the Stamps and has now been found the same on the occasion of the Tea. Their conduct has in the case been every where alike and correspondent. The Tea is either returned without being landed or received without being suffered to be sold,

at New York, at Pennsylvania, at Carolina, at all the places to which it was sent. We reckon entirely without our host, if we don't expect to have to do with a union of that continent or depend on any measures insufficient to master and overpower the whole.

But let me ask; how can we expect otherwise? They are not unacquainted with the history of the mother-country. They know the weight of the taxing hand here. They have heard of our debt of one hundred and forty millions of pounds sterling incurred since the Revolution besides other hundreds of millions spent currently within the same period. The time to come is to be judged of by the time past. Will our brethren of America expect, that this hand should be lighter on them at a distance or that our breasts will feel more for them than for ourselves? Let an Englishman make the case his own

own and question himself; what he should think, were he of that country and his whole fortune and concerns there. Would not he believe his all to be at stake upon the cast? Does any one in America or in England imagine, that all these disputes and feuds are at the bottom only about a duty of threepence upon a pound of Tea? How can then any candid man doubt, whether there will be a general union and concurrence on the subject or wonder if there is so?

They are said to have already Committees of Correspondence and no doubt necessity will teach them other means of moving and acting together. Every thing is there by choice and election; they will probably have at their head, as capable and as wise men, as are to be found among them. The power and influence of Governors and other civil officers appointed from hence, must on an open

rupture have an end. Our authority would perhaps then extend little further, than where it was enforced by our own troops. We shall bid fair to begin with the loss of the whole continent.

But what are an untrained and undisciplined multitude? Could not an experienced officer with a few regular regiments do what he would in America? I answer, that a different story may be told. In the war before last our measures directed at home were every where unsuccessful. The plains of Flanders were fatten'd with some of the best blood of Britain and of Ireland. Our government was shaken almost to the foundation by a rebellion contemptible in its beginning. Were we more fortunate in our attempts by sea, whether first in that against Pondicherry or afterwards in that against Port l'Orient? But the people of New England maintained at that time the honour  
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of our arms. It is well known, that they carried on with their own counsels and with their own soldiery and under the command of one of their own planters against Cape Breton and Louisbourg an expedition, the event of which need not now be told, We did not begin in a much better manner the last war. I am unwilling to call to mind our first campaigns in Germany, our situation and treaty of Closter-Seven, the fate of Minorca or the histories of Braddock and Abercrombie. But who were at that time the first to stem the tide of our ill-fortune? Was not it an American militia, who commanded by Sir William Johnson a gentleman at that time of the country met, fought and beat the French and Indians under Monsieur Dieskau and made prisoner their commander? But what wonders were afterwards done by our people properly conducted and directed? It is very true, and I am sure, that I have

no inclination to depreciate them. But neither did those of America want their share therein. However the courage of our countrymen was never yet questioned; but may they always unite and employ it against our common enemies and never be encamped or embattled against one another either in America or any where else. But should through the extreme rashness and weakness of our counsels such a very great misfortune fall out; is it to be doubted whether the Americans will be wanting to themselves or whether they wil' not endeavour to stand in their own defence against those, who have sometimes in the same country come by the worst with inferior enemies, but over whom they have themselves alone and without assistance often triumphed?

But we are masters at sea and wherever our ships can come. We may do, whatever a fleet can. Very true; but it  
cannot

cannot fail all over North America. It is said, that Marshal Saxe had before the declaration of the last war but one and at the time of our army being in Germany conceived a design to have landed on our coast with ten thousand men and to have tried the fortune of a brisk march to London. He did not find this so easy to execute, as he thought for. He was most happily disappointed. But there was an object. No one can tell the consequence, had he succeeded. The present is a very different matter. No immediate impression upon the town of Boston nor possession taken of it by means of a fleet nor the same circumstance with regard to any other towns of America liable thereto by their situation will carry the command of that whole continent or force it to submit to measures so universally against their bent and inclination.

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It may however be said, that this is not the plan. The charter of the town of Boston is to be changed and their trade suspended and other measures of the very strongest sort are to be enforced against them. The moving mountain is according to the imagination of Dr. Swift to hang over them and the sun not to shine or the rain or the dew to fall on them, until they are brought to submission and made to the rest of America an example of the danger of refractoriness and disobedience to the mother-country; all which we think may and will with time be compassed and accomplished.

This is indeed as to the question of force the true point of the matter, I mean, which will at last and at the end of a long trial get the better; but I add, that this will probably not be Great-Britain. Here I must again crave leave to write with freedom. If it is the first wisdom of a  
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private man to know himself; so must it likewise be that of a State to consider in all its measures its own condition and situation. The searching into our circumstances neither makes or mars them. But what must be our case, should we have any wound or mischief and that it might not be probed or examined? We must ever suppose our adversaries to be informed and not by shutting our own eyes pretend to blind other people. I shall therefore without scruple enquire into the state of the public, as far as it concerns my subject.

The condition of the great staple manufactures of our country is well known. Those of the linen and the silk are in the greatest distress and the woollen and the linen are now publicly banded and contending against one another. One part of our people is starving at home on the alms of their parishes and another running

ning abroad to this very country, that we are contending with. The produce of North-America used to be sent yearly to Britain is reckoned at about four millions sterling; the manufactures of Britain and other commodities returned from hence at nearly the same sum; the debts due from people in America to the British merchants here at about six millions or a year and a half of that commerce. I say, the time past must be our guide with respect to that to come. Supposing therefore the Americans to act in this case, as they did in that of the Stamp Act; we shall then have yearly until the final settlement of this affair manufactures to the value of four millions sterling left and heaped on the hands of our merchants and master-manufacturers or we shall have workmen and poor people put out of employ and turned adrift in that proportion. There will likewise be withdrawn from our home consumption and out of our general trade  
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and traffick North American commodities to the same value and debts will to the immense sum above mentioned be withheld from private people here. This was the train of things begun before and we must look for the like again. What effects these things will produce considering the present state of our trade, manufactures and manufacturers, the condition of our poor at home and the numbers of our people running abroad, it don't want many words to explain and set forth. They were before very severely felt for the time, that they lasted and it is apprehended, that the present situation of the Public is yet more liable to the impression. These are some of the difficulties and distresses, which we are for the sake of a trial of skill with our colonies going to bring on ourselves and which must be perpetually magnifying and increasing, as long as the unnatural contest shall continue.

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To these a former administration gave way; but it is to be supposed, that the present has by returning to the shock resolved to be more callous on the occasion and to leave the Americans, the merchants and the manufacturers to settle among themselves their matters, as they may. Our people will indeed be less clamorous about the ears of their betters if they shall all run and emigrate out of the kingdom. But there is a circumstance not yet mentioned, which will bid fair to go further and which may but too probably involve in one common confusion the nation, the government and the administration itself. I mean the danger of a disorder or failure of the public revenue, the difficulty or impossibility to pay the interest of the debt, the navy, the army, the civil list and our other expences; if the present contention shall proceed and continue.

I desire

I desire in explanation of this to consider our present income, our out-goings and our resources. I will not enter into any detail thereon; the particulars in gross will be sufficient for the purpose before us. I will however in order to be the better understood premise something about the revenue in general. It may be divided into two parts, the one of taxes laid in perpetuity, the other of such as are granted by the year and for the year. The first part consists of all our taxes in general whatsoever, except the Land-tax and the annual Malt-tax; the latter consists of these two only. Perpetual taxes are now in the language of Europe often expressed by the name of funds, as affording a fixed and settled foundation for any special use and particularly for that of borrowing money. It was to answer the interest of our debts, that our own funds were established and they are now pledged for that purpose. These of ours have  
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been chiefly thrown into three great common ones called the General, the Aggregate and the South Sea Funds. These are sometimes with all other funds or perpetual taxes whatsoever destined and settled for the discharge of the interest of our debt comprehended and united together in discourse and called the Sinking Fund; although there is in reality no one particular Fund of that name, any more than there is such a piece of money as a pound sterling or a French livre. The Civil List is placed on the same Funds, as the interest of the Public Debt. What remains annually of the whole collection of those Funds after the satisfying these two incumbrances is, what is meant by the surplus of the Sinking Fund. I have thought proper to preface these few things, that my own language may at least be understood, in what little I shall say on the subject.

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The interest of our debt amounts to near upon five millions a year; all annuities for lives or years, every thing redeemable or irredeemable included. The Civil List is eight hundred thousand pounds a year. The surplus of the Sinking Fund is changing and uncertain, that being composed of very many variable parts. It is impossible to fix it, but I will at an average for the sake of round numbers suppose it to be two millions and more, about as much more as will answer to what the interest of the debt may want of five millions. We shall then have about seven millions three quarters for the produce of our perpetual Taxes and Funds. Our annual taxes remain then only to be considered, which are easily reckoned; the Land-tax granted for a million and a half at three shillings in the pound, as it now is; the Malt-tax always granted at three quarters of a million. These sums put together give us

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about



about ten millions of pounds sterling, being our present annual national income and likewise our present annual national expence; including what may at times be paid towards the discharge of the Public Debt and besides the collection, which is not to my present purpose. Should any one be of opinion, that the surplus of the Sinking Fund is either overcharged or undercharged, he has my consent to make such addition to it or subtraction from it, as he shall please. Neither the one or the other will affect the argument which I am upon. Our receipts and disbursements will in either case go hand in hand. I shall therefore without any more nice disquisition take these at the medium of about ten millions sterling each.

So much for our income and our expences. Let us next consider our resources; I mean what resources we may be supposed to have in our power without  
 creating

creating any new debt. The first to occur will be the surplus of the Sinking Fund. We apply of course to this on almost all occasions. We are by law obliged to discharge regularly the interest of our debt; but whatever prudence and a proper care of ourselves and of those after us may confessedly require, we are commonly understood to be by no contract or engagement bound to do more or to pay off any part of the principal of it. This surplus we will therefore suppose to be one resource; but it is such no otherwise or further, than it can be spared from our current expences, towards which it is commonly in whole or in part taken. We can for our present purpose reckon only on so much of it, as might otherwise be employed towards lessening the capital of our debt. We have now had between eleven and twelve years of peace, in which time I reckon, that we have discharged about eight millions of that capital. This

will therefore supposing no part of it to be balanced by any debt or arrears incurred and unprovided for give us by the year about seven hundred thousand pounds. This is what we may look to for one of our resources. But we have likewise another, which is the Land-tax. That is now at three shillings in the pound, but it is sometimes at four. We may therefore count in case of exigency on one shilling more, that is on half a million. These two sums amount together to about one million two hundred thousand pounds. These are our resources and without borrowing these are all.

Let us next turn in our thoughts, whether these twelve hundred thousand pounds a year, being somewhat more than a ninth part of our present income, are likely to be sufficient for this American occasion. Fleets and armies, ships of war  
and

and regiments are the means and the instruments of executing the measures in question. A million goes but a very little way with us in such articles. This business must in it include a supposition, that all our colonies, all our ancient colonies on that continent may in the progress of it be combined and united in one common association, interest and defence. There can be no reasonable hopes of success, nothing but mortification and disappointment directly in view by proceeding on any plan, which does not comprehend the probability of that circumstance. What a field is then here opened? Are our twelve hundred thousand pounds to furnish us there likewise? However these things concern only our expences. Let us consider the other side of our situation; how much our income is at the same time likely to be lessened. Four millions sterling yearly of the produce of America; as many of the merchandize of Great-

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Britain;

Britain; more of debts here at home with-held and kept back from our duties, our customs and our excise. What an operation on the revenue! Is our million two hundred thousand pounds to supply all this besides? How is it possible either on the one hand, that a person with these circumstances before his eyes should set on foot the present measures against our colonies or on the other, that any one having capacity and understanding to be at the head of the government and administration of a great kingdom should oversee and overlook them? This seems to be like not discerning the sun at noon-day or the moon and the stars by night.

There is from the general condition of our country and perhaps from the public accounts themselves but too much reason to apprehend, that the national revenue is at this time without these additional causes sinking and decreasing. This could  
not

not but add greatly to our difficulties in the situation before described. But a particular investigation of this might lead into too long a labyrinth. I shall therefore not take it into the present account; but most assuredly any one at the head of our affairs ought not to forget it in his, if it is true.

But it may be said, that we will in the supposed exigency borrow, as our predecessors have done before us. I answer, that this may very probably be then out of our power. I will not go upon a general discussion, whether we should enter into another war with the same credit, we have hitherto had; although this may in itself be a subject of the utmost importance, and whereon we have but too much reason to reflect. But the consideration properly before us is, what would be the state of our credit under a revolt and separation of our settlements in America, that great

and essential source of our riches and revenue? Loans and money advanced to us have as yet been reckoned equally secure, there has been no doubt made of the regular payment of the interest nor in consequence of a public market for the principal, whether we should ourselves happen to be more or less successful on any occasion, wherein we were at the time concerned and for which they were borrowed. They were as safe under the defeats and disappointments of the war before, as upon the victories and conquests of the last. However things could not in this case but be much changed. The security of millions lent must depend upon the future chance and fortune of war. It might be made a doubt, what fruits would for some years to come be received from provinces mangled and mutilated in a severe contest decided to their disadvantage, should these at last return to us again; but no one could overlook, what must be the case,  
if

if the event should terminate against us and end after an expence of much treasure and blood in so fatal and ineffimable a loss on our side, as that of these colonies would be. However no man knows, whether this dispute might run into a very long trial. There are ways of anticipating some parts of the public revenue and likewise of running behind-hand some of the public services. Things may perhaps be for a short space carried on in that manner without much notice. But should we once come publickly and professedly to borrowing and to funding in what some may affect to call a yanky war, it will be well, if the whole fabric of our credit does not at that moment shake and tremble to it's very foundation. A general breach and defection of these colonies would withal cut the sinews of our power. We could not most probably in such a situation long continue to provide and pay the interest of our most enormous debt already incurred and subsisting.



fifting. It need not be repeated, that it is the affiftance received from their commerce and produce, which enables us now to do it. Deprived of that it will be but to little purpofe for us to be inventing new Funds at home. We have enow of them already. More would only run foul of one another. We may then without the operations of a war in America, without the fending or fupplying fleets or armies at a diftance, without creating new debts, new Funds and new taxes have at our own homes from our actual fituation bu-  
fines enough on our hands to engage and employ us. We need not perhaps be at this time nice in comparing and meafur-  
ing our force with that of the Americans, the evil of fuch a day will be but too fuffi-  
cient to decide the conteft.

But it may be asked, what will then be the confequence, fhould we from thefe caufes become unable to pay the intereft  
of

of our present debt. I will be bold to say, that there is no man living wise enough to answer that question in its extent. Experience teaches men; but there is no preceding history or tradition of any state or nation whatsoever, which can throw sufficient light on that proposition. There never was before in the world such a debt contracted or subsisting, as the British. Letters and books are older than money, I mean than gold and silver commonly current and having their weight known by a stamp. But there is no occasion to ransack ancient times on this subject. The discovery of Mexico and Peru and the possession of them by the Spaniards is the æra from whence we are to date the beginning of the present plenty in Europe of these two precious metals, which command often individuals and sometimes commonwealths and kingdoms. The art of Funding was formerly very confined. It is a succession of English administrations, which has carried it

to an extent never before known among men. It is a new experiment in a state. There is no example of it in the annals of mankind. We are at a loss where to look for the consequences of such an unprecedented and unheard of deficiency or bankruptcy, as this would prove. However we cannot but have before our eyes disorder, anarchy and confusion; the monied interest of the nation banded against the landed and the landed against the monied; rich monied men brought to beggary and the land drained of the utmost farthing which can be forced from it; every one catching, rending and providing for the present moment; our manufactures and commerce at a stand; the middling people emigrating out of our country and the poor in famine or in sedition; foreigners pressing for their demands and the Dutch particularly in rage and almost in madness for their countless millions trusted and hazarded in our country;

country; perhaps at the same time our navy unmanned and our army in mutiny for want of pay. Who can withal tell the end; for the debt, the burthen and the demand will ever remain? There was a time, when the Romans had formerly withdrawn themselves from this island, that the possessions became here through the weakness and helplessness of those remaining the prize and the prey of all plunderers, pirates, robbers and conquerors, who came and seized up them; until that these people themselves, the Danes, the Saxons and the Normans replenished and strengthened again the country. Whether the like scenes will on the same spot be once more acted or what issue awaits us, he only knows in whose hands these events are. But we must necessarily expect that the distant or detached parts of our empire, will fall from us; the stronger and the larger will probably provide for and govern themselves, the weaker  
and

and the leffer sink away or seek another master. I don't at all mean that they have any inclination so to do, where we give no cause or provocation; but the reins of government will in such a conjuncture of course and of themselves drop out of our hands. No man can tell, whether Great-Britain itself might at that time continue in one or whether it may again be split and divided into two. There have not been wanting endeavours towards that end. I don't now pretend to decide at whose door this principally lies. It is not perhaps one man or one party only, that is in fault. There have been on one hand most unjust and cruel persecutions and a series of the greatest injuries and provocations. High and strong resentments of these are no otherwise than natural and warrantable nor do I in general mean to arraign those conceived or expressed on this occasion. But the person wronged must surely in his cooler and  
and

and calmer moments be himself sensible, that they have in one respect been carried to an unreasonable extent. Reflections have been made and continued, where they are totally ungrounded and unmerited. They have hitherto been borne with a national good sense, that brings more honour to the parties, than all the ribaldry in the world can ever do them discredit. But who knows, how their effects may be felt in such a time, as is before described? What a situation! Britain or England left alone with a debt of a hundred and forty millions sterling on its head! How can any one have before his eyes such an event and yet run on the road, which leads directly towards it!

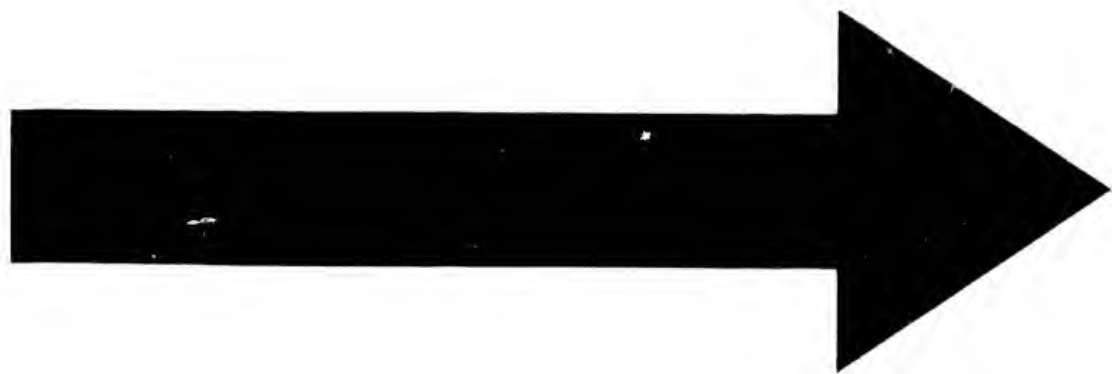
But all is not yet said which this subject demands. I have hitherto only considered us and our colonies as engaged between ourselves, not a word has been said of any foreign state meddling in the matter.

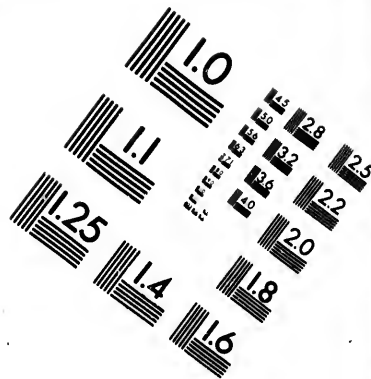
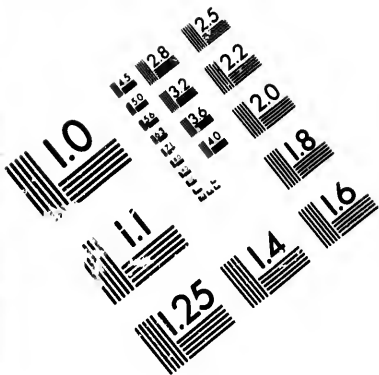
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That is yet behind. We must look upon our colonies in the light of the provinces of Holland, when they contended with Spain. The wish, the hand of every man will be against us. I will not enter into a general discourse of politics, how far it may be for the common good of mankind to split great states into small ones, to divide them into a size fit to profit and benefit others, but not to overbear or distress them. Let us consider the subject by examples familiar to us. Mexico and Peru are more distant from Great Britain, than our colonies of North America, from Spain or France; but were those in a state of defection and separation from the Spaniards, I wonder, whether we should find a way to approach them or to avail ourselves in any manner of that circumstance. France was pretty well plumed in the last war; but nevertheless were the reviving or beginning settlements of Pondicherry, of Mauritius and Madagascar disjoined

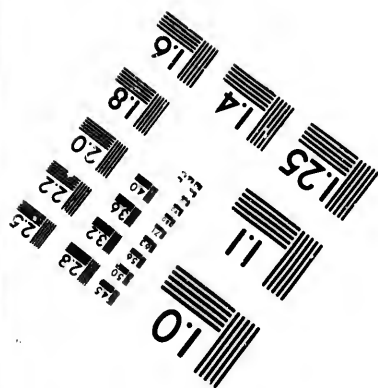
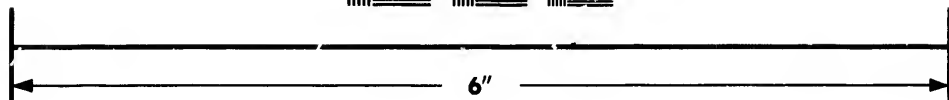
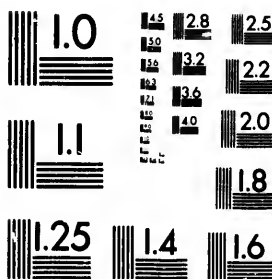
disjoined from it or its own continent broken once more into several different parts and separate governments, would our endeavours contribute to unite them? Should Batavia, the Spice Islands and the Cape of Good Hope revolt from the United Provinces, would not Englishmen try to profit by the conjuncture? I will not touch on the Brazils, that may be a tender point. But would none of all mankind, neither French or Spaniards or Dutch or Portuguese or Danes or Swedes, to say nothing of the Russians or of the new maritime State of Prussia; would none of them all give directly or indirectly aid, assistance, encouragement, countenance or protection to our colonies? Would they not trade or traffick with them, would they supply them with nothing wherewith to defend themselves or to offend us? Is it very practicable to watch and guard such immense coasts or do we at home with all the







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navy of England in our ports find this so easy, with respect to those only of the two English counties of Kent and Suffex? Did neither England or France support formerly the seven United Provinces in their breach with Spain? Have the French at this time afforded no essential assistance to the Turks nor another nation to the Ruffians, while each continues at peace with the enemies of their respective friends? Are the independence of the British colonies in North America and their disjunction from Great Britain no object to other nations; are not they in particular as much so to France as this Turkish and Ruffian squabble? Was formerly that nation ever wanting to Scotland or insensible of its interest in assisting that division? I don't at all mean hereby to signify any attempts or endeavours of other Governments to take possession of these colonies or any inability in them to defend themselves from that circumstance; but

but I mean the general desire and inclination, which there would assuredly be in all Europe to see them disjoined from our nation and to become absolute, distinct, unconnected, independent states and governments in larger or in smaller portions and more or less like the present states of Holland, as it should happen. Were there in sight such a condition with respect to Mexico and Peru or the Dutch settlements in the East-Indies, would not the English without insisting on becoming masters themselves thereof be most abundantly contented with their general advantage arising from the commerce and traffic with them and from the other circumstances of their independency? It cannot be doubted, but that there will be found a conduct and actions consequent and correspondent to such universal and almost unanimous views and wishes of mankind.

This is all said on a supposition of peace. But what if one or more of the greatest powers in Europe should in a most critical and difficult moment declare war against us? Have France and Spain forgot the loss of Canada and Georgia and the many defeats and disgraces received in the last contest with us? Have they for their honour or interest no desire of revenge nor that those provinces should again return to their own crowns? On whom does it depend whether it shall in the case supposed be peace or war? Is this to be determined at London, or at Madrid and Versailles? Is it in the power and in the breasts of ourselves or of those, who are most our rivals and whose enmity may be said to be hardly yet cooled? Are four years past since we had two alarms? Is one year gone since we had one? Should there now be happily at the head of one or other government a Personage inclined to peace; yet how uncertain are the days of every mortal and how are Princes,  
 Ministers

Ministers or States tempted into action by circumstances, opportunities and advantages? Let us well weigh what it is for a private man, but much more for a great nation to part with the means of their prosperity out of their own hands and to place it in the power and determination of those, of whom they have on account of a long and ancient rivalship and the continuance of many bloody wars the utmost reason to be suspicious and jealous.

We cannot too much consider or reflect upon what happened between Spain and the Dutch Provinces at their breach and separation. The Spanish Government consisted at that time, of Spain, of Portugal, of Mexico and Peru and other provinces of America, of the Spanish and Portuguese being all the European settlements at that time in the East-Indies and of Flanders making seventeen provinces, whereof those now united and then revolted were only seven. How unequal a

match ! But yet the battle was not to the strong. The story and event of their war are well known. I am not about to repeat them. How little did in the beginning the Spaniards or Portuguese or even the Dutch themselves dream, that the latter would before long strip and divest the former of the chief of these their settlements in the East-Indies and make them their own. They were nevertheless different nations, spoke different languages, had different customs and religions inconsistent together and were themselves before the end extremely odious to one another. The Dutch obtained nothing except by force, victory and conquest. But surely we are well aware, how different things may in these respects be between us and the Americans and how much to the advantage of the latter. We are one nation, with the same language, the same manners and the same religion. Their Seamen, their Soldiers, their People are  
ours



ours and ours theirs. How easy will be the transition or the change of dependence, protection or government between one and the other? Our people do already and at this moment seek with them shelter and refuge from their domestic poverty and misery. Should ever these our provinces in the events of chance and time come to look us in the face with any near equality or be much assisted by any other nation, would it then be a very strange thing, if they should cause a general revolt of all or of almost all the seamen of the British Empire? These might not look upon themselves as engaging or acting against their country, but as chusing between two parts of it. They will at their pleasure distribute the titles of unreasonable and unjust, of injured and oppressed. The best terms and the best treatment will not fail to carry the greater numbers. There is perhaps on the one side towards this brave and deserving body of men a

most cruel, unjust and impolitic practice, which has long cried for vengeance and which cannot fail to be one day heard and at that moment perhaps as likely, as at any other. It is in every one's discourse, that something of the same kind may happen with respect to our common soldiery; I will not therefore dwell on that point. But what part might our islands in the West-Indies take at such a conjuncture? To whom are they the nearest or on whom do they most depend for their provisions, lumber and other necessary circumstances of their trade? Would there be in the East-Indies the same necessity of conquest, as the Dutch found? Might more equal conditions or independence itself be no temptation to one or the other or might it in that day be thought a great sin to change the words Old England for New? There is one point so important, so critical, that I hardly know either how to mention or how to be silent in it. Suppose that  
Ireland

Ireland itself, I mean the protestant, opulent and ruling part of Ireland should grow jealous ; should begin to make comparisons between the state, situation and relation of the Americans towards us and their own ;—but I will pass by this subject. However I know so well the openness and frankness of that nation, as to be fully assured, that there are at least none of that country, who advise or urge at this time the present proceedings with any distant or double view to forward and hasten the independence of Ireland and that not at its own, but at the cost and hazard of America. The human heart can hardly be conceived to conceal such mysteries. But were it otherwise, our administration would no doubt be sensible of it and instead of being duped or imposed upon thereby, be only the more circumspect on the occasion and the more upon their guard.

Unhappy

Unhappy are the people, which pursue those steps, that their friends most fear and their enemies most wish. Were the cabinets of Versailles and Madrid or any other the most jealous of the power and prosperity of Great - Britain united in Council and that they had it in their option to drive and push us for their own advantage upon some ruinous and destructive measure, what would they chuse before this very one, which we are now of ourselves so fatally and so madly running upon ?

It is a common proverb in politics, that any state may at it's own pleasure commence war, but that they must afterwards ask their enemies, when it shall be ended. Let us stay our hand and reflect once more, while we may and before that the die is cast not to be recalled. No man knows otherwise, whether the next time that we and the Americans

cans shall treat upon terms, it may be on the ground of acts of parliament and acts of assembly or upon that of a treaty of peace.

It is sometimes said, that Providence blinds the understanding of those, whom it destines to destruction. When things are ripe for that end, men often provoke and hasten their own fate. But God forbid, that any one being at the helm of this state should ever not fully and repeatedly consider or that he should from any unhappy impulse scruple or hesitate to stay and to stop such measures, as may in their consequences make his master to sit uneasy on his throne nor suffer him himself to lay down his head upon his pillow without bearing on it the curses of his country, but which may throw all the parts of the British empire into such disorder and confusion, that neither he nor any man shall be able to guide or hold the reins of its government.

I can-

I cannot guess into whose hands these sheets may fall or how they may be received. It is not a Prince alone who may in these abject times be surrounded with flattery; a Minister may not want his share of it. It is withal but a poor satisfaction for a private person to wish in the waste and havock of his country, that it may be remembered; that there was not wanting One who laid freely and plainly before the Public and those governing it the risque and the likelihood of these fatal events and circumstances. But it is to be hoped, that better and more substantial effects and consequences will follow, should the things here advanced be on consideration found no other than truth and reason. May not otherwise these advices and admonitions rise up one day in witness against those, who shall now despise them? It is at the same time the furthest from my meaning, that futurity can be foreseen or that it is permitted to  
 look

look into the book of the time to come. There is nothing certain in human affairs. But in incidents of this prodigious importance, in the fate of states and of kingdoms, in dangers of this transcendent magnitude, probability takes the place of certainty and every prudent ruler ought to shun and avoid the one with almost as much caution, as he would the other nor can I finish this subject without once more repeating, that our present debt puts us into a situation, in which no nation ever was before.

I know that some people affect to magnify the debts of France, but they are hardly worth speaking of in comparison of ours. I don't believe, that they exceeded at the utmost fifteen millions sterling when the Regent Duke of Orleans took the method of the Mississippi to cancel and annihilate them. The wants of Lewis the Fourteenth had been  
great,

great, but his credit was as small. What can the present King have contracted since to be compared to the debt of Great Britain? Where is the credit? Does any one believe the Dutch concerns of that kind to be equal in France to what they are in England or has France itself supplied the rest? However I will only observe more that the French debt consists in great measure of arrears of pensions, places, posts and other grants which the same hand with-holds, as conferred; but that our debt was all received in millions sterling.

As to what has been said, that great men moving in a public sphere are above the rules of right and wrong; he must be unworthy to hold the helm of any government, who is so ignorant of the facts and incidents before his time or so blind to those about him, as not to observe and perceive that good and virtuous actions,



actions, I mean, such as are really so without the false colours of flattery and obsequiousness, produce in general and national matters their proper and correspondent effects. We have not indeed before our eyes in that case the formalities of a trial and a sentence, the Judge in his robes or the apparatus of an execution; but due consequences do from the original and universal law given to the world follow a good or evil conduct in public concerns with much more certainty, justice and impartiality, than they do by the means of municipal laws in private. But I desire to explain, that it is not the piety of a bigot on his knees or the prayers even of a devout Prince, which will stay or turn the course and order of the world. Had that been the case, our Henry the Sixth would not have fallen in a prison by the hand of an assassin nor Charles the First have suffered on a scaffold by the axe of the executioner, or

Jaynes

James the Second have led the latter part of his life in banishment. These were all uncommonly both devout and unfortunate Princes. I don't at present enter into the consideration of what reward personal piety will meet with in another place; but it is the public good, a love and regard for that and attention to it, a constant resolution never to take directly or indirectly by the means either of force or of corruption the property of the subject at will and at pleasure, but to employ only for the welfare and happiness of the people the powers and the prerogatives entrusted by them for that purpose; which are the true trial and touchstone of the conduct of Princes and Ministers, as such. These naturally produce affection, loyalty, fidelity, attachment and support. But should any man or number of men be regardless of the good or condition of others, trample on their rights, lay unjust hands on their properties, treat them rather like the  
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the beasts of the field; than as their fellows and equals, should they support themselves herein with the sword and a superiority of power; the great Author of mankind and of their welfare and happiness has so linked and chained together causes and effects, that these things will certainly turn to the detriment and disadvantage of them and theirs, who do them; sometimes by a silent and hardly observable course of things and sometimes with long delay and at a great distance; but sometimes likewise at the moment and upon the occasion with direct and immediate resistance and a common confusion, wherein the authors of the mischief are themselves involved and wherein they often fall a prey and a sacrifice. The ways of Providence and the course of futurity are unsearchable; but were any man to presume to divine, how justice and injustice and the general morality of the universe may possibly in the

present case operate, it would perhaps be; that Right will strongly unite, cement and combine by a mutual association and assistance those acting under its banners, while Wrong will on the contrary confound and weaken with disunion, dissention and disturbances among themselves that people, by whom it shall unhappily have been adopted. These are on each side the natural and, as it were, the necessary consequences of their own choice. But there appear at the same time some untoward and threatening signs, that the Hand of Heaven will on the occasion be heavy and severe; when woe to the party, which shall abide it.

If any thing can in this case enhance the importance of the great stake, which we are about to venture, it must be a comparison of the very little profit, that we are going to contend for. The Americans are willing and consenting to give us all  
they

they have, provided that we will accept it with our right hand; but we are obstinate to risk every thing both of theirs and of our own rather than not to take it with our left. Our whole object is on this occasion no more, than the difference between those two propositions. Our Americans have now no gold or silver. It comes all to the mother-country. It would equally do so, did they receive as much again. They keep none for their own currency; they use themselves paper for that and send us all the other. One would be amazed to think, what men or administrations can desire. Cannot we be contented with all and do we insist on having more than all?

But it will be said we want to tax them. I ask why. It must be answered, because we are bent upon getting their money. I repeat again, we have it already. But says a ways-and-means man; we must

have it in the shape of taxes. No other will serve our purpose. I reply once more, that we have it really in that shape; for cannot we and don't we tax it, when it comes hither and is not that the same thing? Are there not taxes enow to take it, as soon as it gets to Britain or why don't you ask for more, if there are not? Who says you nay here? I will be bold to say, that there is at this time raised on Great-Britain nothing less than ten millions sterling a year, besides the collection; that is the least, it may with the latter be fairly taken at eleven. Our specie has never been used to be reckoned at above twenty millions. It is said, that about three millions and a quarter of guineas have at the time of the writing this been on occasion of the light gold brought into the Bank. Let our currency be calculated on that ground and we shall according to any just reasoning thereon appear to raise within the year by taxes, including the  
col-

collection, a sum at least equal to half of the whole specie and current coin of the kingdom; a prodigious proportion and perhaps incredible, were we not to examine into particulars.

Should it be said, that a circulating guinea cannot but pay twenty different taxes in a year, some might possibly be at first sight surprized at it. But how far short will that on a more minute examination be found of the truth? Let us consider only the course of a shilling for a very short time. A chairman pays out of it for his pot of porter. How many taxes does that include; the new and old taxes on beer and malt and the tax on hops? They are more than I have time to reckon. His wife sends next morning to the shop for her tea and sugar. How many more are there? I will leave them to be counted by those better acquainted with the book of rates, than I am. But

here are a considerable number gone thro' out of one single shilling by the time, that a porter has got his beer over-night and his wife her breakfast the next morning. There remains then a third part of the money to run the gauntlet again in the service of the man at dinner-time. However they do not perhaps amount quite to twenty; but so is likewise the time a good deal short of a year and the money much less than a guinea. But this is not taking the matter in the strongest light. There is a chain and union of taxes, which operate insensibly and almost beyond imagination. Go into a Shoemaker's shop. Buy a pair of shoes there. How many taxes does any one in effect pay then? The Journeyman Shoemaker must put into his day's labour and consequently there must be laid upon the shoes made by him all the taxes, which he and his family pay in the mean time for his salt, for his soap, for his coals,  
for



for his candles, for the linen and for the very shoes worn by him, his wife and his children and for very many other things. These are all just so much money out of his pocket and he must be repaid them by his daily labour, which is his only means. He cannot otherwise live; there would be no shoes and men must go without them. But it is not the immediate taxes of the Shoemaker only which go upon his manufacture, but those likewise of his tradesmen. The price of his cloaths is enhanced by the taxes, which the Taylor and the Weaver paid while they were making and weaving them; however not by theirs only, but by those likewise of the persons working for them in their turn and so on. These must all be put on the shoes. Inasmuch that the whole fully pursued and observed makes a series and combination fit to put Newton or Demoisire at a stand. A poor guinea or shilling cannot in England put its head,

if I may so express myself, out of any man's pocket, but that an army of these catchpoles are ready to seize upon it, wherever it stirs. The matter being then viewed in these lights, it seems no longer strange, if we raise a revenue equal to the half of our currency or more. Increase that currency and you increase in all appearance your revenue nearly in that proportion. This is a prodigious operation and surely sufficient to satisfy any administration whatsoever. Let us therefore content ourselves with getting hither the American money. That is our business. We know what to do with it here. This is the very land of taxes. It is now coming as fast, as it can. Don't let us move Heaven and Earth only to disturb it in its passage. Let us have the least patience and fall to work upon it at home. We are certain, that it will be here and that it will then be taxed and,

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as it were, taxed upon taxed. The rest is with all submission to my superiors no better at the bottom, than a childish fancy and impatience and owing only to the want of a full reflection and consideration on the subject.

I have yet something to add on this head; which is, that were the Irish and the Americans both of them unanimously to cry out to us to spare their lives and to take all they have; to beg of us to send them such another army of tax-gatherers, as our own, and with them a copy of our code of revenue-laws; I will be bold to say, that it would nevertheless be in us the worst policy in the world and totally contrary to our own interest to take them at their words and to do in the least degree any such thing. We see the Thames flowing constantly into the ocean and yet always full. It need not be said, that the rain and the dew are the causes  
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of this, which first fall and fertilize the earth and then replenish that noble river. Were those two stopped or dried up, it would not be long, before we should pass over dry-shod at London Bridge. Were they so only in part, the stream would then likewise lower in proportion. What our whole debt to foreigners amounts to, no one may probably know with exactness; but the more it has been enquired into, the higher it has always appeared. However the interest of it is a current, which runs perpetually into the Continent. We do not indeed see it with our eyes, as we do the Thames; otherwise we love money so much better than we do water, that we might perhaps be less indifferent about it, than we are. It passes imperceptibly, but nevertheless surely and without ceasing. What are then the causes which supply it? I answer, those two great sources of Ireland and America. These first water and fructify with their most benignant current

current the whole island of Great-Britain and then finish their course in the discharge of our debt abroad. Their way is no more visible, than that of the interest itself of our debt, but it is alike certain and constant. Stop or dry up these and you will as surely stop or dry up the funds of our debts, as withholding the rain or the dew of Heaven would lessen and lower the stream of the River Thames. Taxes will do this. They are the bane of commerce and of agriculture. They affect the Merchant, the Manufacturer, the Planter, the Farmer and the Labourer. Our America is not of an age to support their operation. The things from above keep their course in spite of man for his benefit and advantage. It is God's very great mercy that the dew and the rain do not depend on Administrations, they would otherwise have undoubtedly been taxed and dried long ago. But it is not so with what is of our own fabrick or  
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production. We have a great power over riches and treasure. Governments can effectually cut off the wells and the springs of these. We have only to look abroad in the world to be abundantly convinced of that truth. The example of Great-Britain will not prove the contrary. It was when and while we were not taxed, as we now are, that we prospered, grew great and rich. Those times gave us strength to bear for a while the burthen since imposed upon us. It is from the Revolution, that our prodigious taxes have begun. They were laid by degrees and so must their effects be perceived. They don't operate like a storm or a whirlwind. Let us give them a fair and full trial before we declare, that we are not undone by them. It will then be time enough to make ourselves a model for others. I ask, whether it is not our own actual difficulties brought on by these very taxes, which do now at this instant

infant urge us upon our colonies and which are the cause of all the present contest and disorder. It is one of the first principles in commerce not to burthen the means and materials of manufactures. It would be nipping the fruit in the bud. The same reasoning holds here. Let us keep our hands from these two great causes and sources of our treasure and wealth. They have hitherto wonderfully supplied and supported us. They may continue so to do, if we will suffer them.

But it may be said, that we have at home great and profitable manufactures and our woollen one in particular; whereby we stand less in need of distant assistance. That is very true; but so is it likewise, that we have on the continent very many expences and demands for money besides the interest of our debt. We shall be very fortunate, if we can with  
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the means of all our richest resources make at the year's end an even accompt.

But it may be asked, what are we then to do. We are pressed with our domestic burthens and incumbrances. These put us first on the measure of Stamps in America, wherein we did not succeed. These induced us afterwards to make demands on the India-Company, wherein we had rather better fortune. It is these, which have again brought us back to our attack on America. How are we either to stand under them or to march forward? Is it safe to rest as we are? What course are we to take if it is not? This is perhaps as serious a proposition, as one Englishman can put to another. No man laments more than the writer of these sheets, that nearly twelve years of peace are now elapsed without any thing being done or establishment made which may enable us to maintain another war or  
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perhaps even in peace support long the present very heavy pressure, under which we labour. We have in that time paid off eight millions. We borrowed during the late war twelve millions in a year; so that our discharge is in between eleven and twelve years of peace equal to a debt of eight months of war. We shall at that rate in about seventeen years of the first, if it should continue so long, free ourselves from the incumbrance of one year of the latter. Whereas should the whole time be taken from the Revolution to the present, we have had as much of the one as of the other, except the difference of about ten years in the whole. Should therefore any one at the helm of Government plume himself on this, what would he do but testify, how very far short his own views and conceptions are of the real necessities and exigencies of the state? We are in the mean time daily liable to be again engaged in war. We have now had an  
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uncommon interval of rest from it. It was but a very few years ago, that we were on the brink of a rupture with Spain, which would undoubtedly have been attended by one with France. How can any Minister sleep in peace, who has on his hands the care of a kingdom and the welfare of many millions of people; while public affairs are in a condition so very unprepared for an event, which may at any moment happen and which may in our present situation bring with it consequences of an importance hardly to be conceived? Surely they think on these things, whose duty most demands it of them. It is impossible, that such concerns of ours can be left only to chance and hazard or, as it were, to the fortuitous concurrence of atoms. One would think there could hardly be a man in Britain, Minister or any other not perpetually employed at the plough, but who must daily revolve in his mind the present  
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circumstances of his country, our burthens, our debts and our expences and at the same time cast in his own breast, what must be the best means of our supporting ourselves under them, whether in war or in peace. There is an issue, which some men have in view and which I will not express; we may however be assured that they do but very superficially consider the matter, who imagine, that this will in our case take place without the utter ruin and confusion of every thing. All is notwithstanding as yet tranquillity and sunshine with us. We possess a great and fine country; we have most noble and beneficial dependencies; we have a fleet; we have an army; we have several hundred thousands and perhaps near a million of men capable of bearing arms in their own defence; we have a revenue with a surplus above the interest of our debts and expences. Surely there is yet an opportunity to find some plan; to settle

some establishment, whereon things may rest safely and securely and the Public and all reasonable persons be satisfied, that they do so. There is however no time to be lost. It may be too late to prepare, as it were, in the day of battle and at the moment when our difficulties press strongly upon us. But this is of itself a very wide field and one of the greatest of considerations nor is it my immediate subject. But the measures now carrying on will not effect it or any thing towards it. No surrounding dangers or difficulties are a good reason for running down a precipice; our fate can but lead us thither at last. However no other end can happen to us from the way, which we are now in, if we persevere and proceed in it.

This seems to be a sufficient answer to the point before us. However I will not totally turn my back on this question, without

out frankly and freely proposing what, I trust, will at least be more for our purpose, than that which we are now pursuing; what may be carried into execution, which the other cannot, what would increase our revenue, which the other will not. I mean to do almost directly the contrary of what we are about, that is, to give a greater liberty and latitude of trade both to Ireland and to America, to America including our West-India Islands. That is my proposition. We are the seat and center of Government. This is our strength. This is our advantage. This is what we are to preserve. While we retain this, all the money, riches and treasure of the more distant and dependent parts of our Empire cannot fail to flow in upon us. We have nothing to do with little jealousies about this trade or that manufacture; it is the proper business of the rich to spend their money and of the poor to earn it; the State may well without meddling in

it leave them to fettle the means of that matter with one another. The end of all trades and of all manufactures must rest with us, while we continue the seat of dominion. It is the necessary consequence of giving the tone and the law. Ambition, pleasure, fashion, business, curiosity, education, trade and commerce, posts and places possessed abroad by Englishmen and numberless other causes will contribute to and effect it. The island of Jamaica and our other islands in the West-Indies what money and commodities equivalent to money have they not sent to England, could the whole be added together? Jamaica in particular draws by its situation gold and silver from the Spanish main, that great modern Ophir, much more abundant in those metals than ever was the ancient. It is here almost impossible not to observe; that the same statesman forbid and stopped also this commerce, who contrived and passed the  
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the Stamp Act. I will not dwell on this circumstance. However it is very remarkable—I shall therefore proceed to take notice, that had these Islands and Islanders acquired ten times as much as they did; it would undoubtedly have run the same road as the rest. The climate would have driven the possessors from thence, while the seat of empire would have invited them hither. Do not we see the very Proprietaries of our northern colonies living in England as private gentlemen and have not we sometimes known them voting in Minorities of our Lower House of Legislature, while they might have been almost as Princes and Kings in their own governments? Were it in the next month to rain over the different parts of Ireland a million of money; how long does any one imagine it would be, before at least nine hundred thousand pounds of it would find its way into England? Have we lately wanted very sufficient proofs,

that there remains no abundance of cash in that kingdom? I will not repeat, what has been said of North America; but they have by their paper-money invented the very contrivance of the world for sending to us every ounce of their gold and silver, did we but know when to be content. Look at the city of London; they neither plant nor do they sow nor do they reap, yet Solomon or his Jerufalem were not in all their glory rich and great like that capital of our dominions. But by what means does this happen? The money of our whole empire is remitted thither, as the blood runs to the heart. Our great body politic is preserved and nourished by the dispersion and circulation of it again from thence. This is the constant and never-failing course of things. But the case is much more strong, if we take Great-Britain itself, whereof London is only a part. That would retain a considerable share of what it receives,



ceives, did not the interest of our debt carry it out, as fast as it comes in. This is the issue and the drain, which prevents us from perceiving ourselves more enriched and replenished from the vast quantity of treasure perpetually arriving to us from many parts. This may be the reason, why we are less sensible, less attentive and perhaps sometimes less grateful on the occasion. But that is all our own fault, our own doing. We have none to thank for it but ourselves. We ought not on that account to esteem these supplies the less, for had we not them, it would be much worse with us. Nothing could follow but our last decease and dissolution, as a State. These must and will take place, whenever the others shall stop. However these things don't require much reasoning. We have the world before us for an example. Such are every where the effects between the center and other parts of a Government,

although perhaps in no case more so than in that of Great-Britain on account of certain circumstances and causes attending that empire, which are particularly suited to produce them. This is our point, if we are but sensible of our true interest; let us but preserve this our great and sacred prerogative and the other benefits and advantages will of course follow, the rest of these things will perform themselves, even while we are asleep.

I shall use no words to prove that this arrangement will bring a greater influx of treasure to those, to whose liberty of trade it shall extend. The person the most prejudiced or the most short-sighted in the case will not dispute that with me, I will venture to presume on that point. This will therefore attach to us our dependencies at the same time, that it enriches us ourselves. It will strengthen and fasten the bond and union between us.

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It will confirm our superiority, while it encreases the fruits of it. It will bring us more spoils and profits than conquest, although it will operate by love and affection. It will require neither fleets or armies to enforce it; we need fear no revolts, no defections or confederacies on the account of it. How happy would it be, if all the circumstances of the other plan would in the same manner answer and play into the hands of each other! When will men be contented to do to others no more mischief, than what will turn to their own benefit? States and Ministers will have advanced no mean way in policy, as well as in morality, when they shall once have learned to confine all their evil towards others within that circle. It is the very perverseness of folly to suppose, that men can serve themselves only by oppressing others. But here on the contrary the hand of nature itself works with us. Freedom of trade is our foundation;

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no wonder then that so many blessings coincide together. There is open before us a rich and wide field; we have only to enter and to reap the harvest, which is ripe and plentiful. This proposal rests therefore on three points; to wit, that it will bring a greater influx of treasure into our outward Dominions; that this must enrich the center of empire; which cannot therefore likewise but encrease its revenue. These are short propositions and no way perplexed. Let them be well examined. All falls to the ground, which has been said on the subject, if any one of them be false or mistaken; but should they on the contrary be all of them most evident, most certain and indisputable, let any man and the greatest in trust the most consider; how he can answer to Ireland, to the Colonies, to his Country at home, to his King himself in the concern of his Revenue and his Exchequer, the refusing his attention and assistance to a measure,

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so very practicable and at the same time  
so univcrsally beneficial and salutary.

This is the more and much more necessary on account of the present condition of Ireland. The late enquiry concerning their linen manufacture, the public history of their emigrations and the state of their credit at the beginning of their present Session of Parliament have made that sufficiently known. I shall not pretend to describe it. England has perhaps from that Island reaped more real benefit, than Spain ever did from Mexico or Peru. Spain gains indeed from those possessions great riches of silver and gold; but she has dearly purchased them at the price of her inhabitants and people at home. Whereas Ireland affords us in many ways a very advantageous assistance and support of men, while we receive from her at the same time a constant most rich influx and supply of money.

ney. We now so depend on these things and can so ill do without them and are by these means so united with our Sister-Island, that should she on any account unhappily sink, she cannot but like a mill-stone fastened about our necks carry us down along with her. Should her condition grow worse, who knows but it may turn to rage and despair and either have an effect on her Legislature or that the majority thereof may be hardly able to manage and govern their own State. I am unwilling to point out such possibilities; but it will not be long health and wealth in England, should any irretrievable mischief happen in Ireland. A moderate remedy might however now be timely, for what may in futurity be beyond redress. A greater liberty and latitude of trade is the proper assistance in the case. It is what Ireland itself wishes and desires. It will at the same time be of more benefit to us than  
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to them. France is beating us out of the trades of Turkey, of Spain and even of Portugal. Let loose the Irish and they will do as much for them and likewise for some others. It is Great-Britain, which with-holds the hand of Ireland and not the nature of things, that confines it. Let us but consent and they will soon stretch out their right hand into many a market in the world, where it now never appears and having done so they will immediately deliver to us with their left the money gained there as surely, as that we are born Englishmen. I don't point out particulars; lights will not be wanting in that respect, whenever there shall be an inclination to demand them. I don't moreover mean to signify, that any opening of the commerce of Ireland and America recommended within the compass of these sheets will of itself be adequate to all the demands of our present situation. That will in all appearance require a new  
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and universal arrangement of our taxes and commerce, wherein Great Britain herself must bear a most material part. No man can say, that all the money in Europe is equal to our National Debt nor can therefore any provision be sufficient, but what may produce effects answerable to such a very great necessity. Some plan seems to be demanded, which may bring into Great Britain a good part of all the gold and silver now current in the world, Nothing less will perhaps do our business. The practicability of this cannot but appear a doubtful problem. Were all states whatsoever formed on a constitution the most advantageous for commerce, whereof each is capable; it is evident, that they would then share among them those two precious metals in so near a proportion, that no one could therein have over the rest any very great superiority. But this is exceedingly wide of the case. No one state is so constituted; but on the contrary



trary almost all governments whatever are framed and act on principles directly opposite thereto. This gives a very great opportunity for an extreme difference and disproportion in that respect. It is perhaps on the availing ourselves thereof, that depends the future welfare of our country and the safety, the stability and the very subsistence of our state. The Dutch are a small people or at least have but a very confined territory and that defended with difficulty from the sea. They have nevertheless done a great deal in the way, which we are speaking of. They are certainly therein at the head of all mankind. However it is evident and might easily be pointed out, that they are yet far short of perfection. There is good room for others to go beyond and especially for a state, which has such advantages as Great - Britain. However what degree of advantage the nature of things will admit of on this head or how  
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to attain thereto are not questions of this present instant. I have said thus much led to it by my subject together with the interest of the Public therein and the necessity, which I am persuaded that my country is at this time under of finding and carrying into execution some such great, general and salutary measure. Happy will be the hand, that shall in the first place prevent the ruin, whereon we are now running. We must begin there. That is the object directly before us. Let us next enlarge the trade of Ireland and America. This will do a great deal. It may likewise lead us towards a more universal plan, with which it cannot at the same time but coincide. It will withal be well, that this double benefit of these two parts of our country went hand in hand together. The present state of Ireland makes it absolutely and immediately necessary for the one and the interest of Great-Britain requires it for both.

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I don't enter into particulars concerning the stopping up the Port of Boston or the new laws given to Massachusetts-Bay. However I must observe, that the alteration of their Charter and of their Civil Government is not temporary like the other provisions, but perpetual. The breaking of Charters is making the worst war upon mankind. It involves the innocent and those yet unborn. Every thing depends with men on their constitution of Government. Such a measure is therefore wantonly laying waste the territories of the earth and I speak it with reverence, but it is even forbidding Providence itself to make mankind happy thereon, unless he shall for the undoing the works of unreasonable and ill-judging men perform immediate miracles and suspend or counteract his own laws of nature, which is surely not to be supposed or expected. As for those, who refuse or impede law and justice for blood, let them be well

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aware,

aware, that they don't thereby bring it on their own heads or warrant private men to be themselves their own avengers. However the whole will no doubt be received in America as a declaration of war and depend upon the same issue. It must be by force and conquest, if they submit. It is probably not a month or a year, that will finally determine this affair. The flame may break out immediately or the fire may smother until some fatal opportunity of our being engaged in a foreign war or some other such occasion. The authors of these measures no doubt expect, that the removal of the Custom-house and the suspension of the trade of Boston will bring these people on their knees and force them to submit to the rest of our measures. It is evident, that this is their idea. They might have been well informed and instructed and ought to have been so, before they proceeded so far. They may nevertheless find themselves

selves much mistaken in the event, how-  
 ever forward they are to hazard on their  
 opinion the welfare and prosperity of their  
 country. It seems, that some men can-  
 not even at the distance of America bear  
 a Constitution in any degree Democra-  
 tical. But they ought to know the History  
 of the World better than to be ignorant of  
 the strength and the force of such a form  
 of government and how strenuously and  
 almost wonderfully people living under  
 one have sometimes exerted themselves in  
 defence of their rights and liberties and  
 how fatally it has ended with many a  
 man and many a state who have entered  
 into quarrels, wars and contests with  
 them.

Some say, that all the contradiction  
 and opposition of America originates from  
 home and that it is only the faction of  
 England, which catches there. Nothing  
 perhaps testifies a greater ignorance of

the true state of that country, than such a notion. What is all the spirit of Patriotism or of Liberty now left in England, more than the last snuff of an expiring lamp? It is not longer than four and thirty years ago, that it was otherwise with us. But who can say, whether the same flame, the same sacred flame may not at this time burn brightly and strongly in America, which once show'd forth such wonders in Greece and in Rome and from whose ashes it still enlightens a great part of mankind, I mean, all who are not sunk in ignorance or barbarity? They have certainly there excellent and free forms of government and which partake perhaps in some degree of the principles, whereon were framed the ancient ones of those eminent cities. They are themselves as yet a new and uncorrupted people. They carried with them formerly the spirit of Liberty from England, at the time that it was in its greatest purity and

and perfection there nor has it since de-  
generated by the climate. Whoever shall  
judge of their temper by ours at home  
and proceed accordingly, will perhaps in  
the end be scorched by that flame, which  
he may find to burn too powerfully for  
him and of the nature and of the proper  
means for extinguishing of which, he was  
totally ignorant.

I have now considered the rectitude,  
the practicability and the profit to be ex-  
pected from our present measures and  
have gone so far as to offer another mea-  
sure instead. I hope, that I have proved  
my propositions to a great degree of clear-  
ness and certainty. I don't know what  
to do more on this subject, unless I should  
propose something, which might convince  
and satisfy without the trouble of reason  
and argument. This seems difficult. How-  
ever I will not despair. My cause is a good  
and a strong one; that will help me and I

beg to be permitted to try my hand in the case. I will recommend and, so far as becomes me, desire and request; that every one, when he considers of this subject and especially before he uses any hard words or passes any harsh laws, will place himself in America; will imagine himself born, bred, resident and having all his concerns and fortune there. I don't mean in the light of a Governor or of one, who seeks to recommend and to advance himself here at the expence of his countrymen in that part of the world; but as one, who has no other views or interest except in the common good of his colony or continent. Let then any such man candidly and fairly ask himself in his own breast, what he should in that situation think of being taxed at Westminster and let no one on this occasion throw a stone, whose heart does not plainly and roundly answer him with its assent. I may make too free with Ministers of State; but I would



would particularly press this on those, whose desires, passions and inclinations are followed by effects and who hold perhaps at this moment in their hands the fate of Great-Britain and of North-America. This I say, is an argument without a syllogism; but which if properly brought home and enforced by every man upon himself, may perhaps penetrate; move and soften more than all the reasoning and earnestness, which I have hitherto used.

I would willingly try this experiment of transposition upon a late transaction, wherein some peoples opinions seem to be affected by locality. Certain letters (see letters of Governor Hutchinson, &c.) have been published of an American Governor and Lieutenant-Governor and a third person together with remarks and the speech of a learned and ingenious Gentleman. These are offered as an ap-

peal to the public against the colony of Massachusetts-Bay. They cannot therefore, but be themselves likewise the objects of a public consideration. I have by the touchstone of locality a mind to examine and question some of this learned Gentleman's reasoning. It is now but between eighty and ninety years, since we of this country banished our King. On what ground did we do it?—It will be answered; that we did not like his actions; for that they tended to deprive us of our best rights and properties. That we did it as Englishmen on the Constitution of England—Who was the common Judge between us and him?—There was no such common Judge. We judged for ourselves. He was our King, our Magistrate, our Trustee. When we found him to fail in the essential points of these offices, we took another. This was our right, as Englishmen—But we set aside one of his daughters from her turn in the succession

succession and appointed instead a person, who had no title by birth. The King's horse threw him and the Lady succeeded. But that was chance. It might in a course of nature very well have happened, that she had never been Queen. What had she done?—She had taken a remarkable part in the Revolution and was totally unexceptionable. But there were in one scale the welfare and happiness of many millions of people and in the other the advancement of only one Lady, although a deserving one. There was therefore no equality, the latter could not but kick the beam—I answer, that I subscribe to all this with my hand and my heart. But it is only one side of the medal. Let us turn the reverse. An American Governor is not so big as a King; he don't wear a Crown nor bear a Scepter nor sit on a Throne nor is worshipped on the knee nor has a Navy nor an Army nor makes Bishops nor Judges nor is his Civil List perhaps above a thousand pounds a year.

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He seems to be much more responsible and more removeable, than a King. Suppose then that one of our Colonies should take the strongest exceptions to their Governor and desire to change him; would they in that case be permitted to judge for themselves?—No.—Why not?—Because they are Americans.—Who are to judge for them?—We.—Why so?—Because we are Englishmen.—But would their application be to us a sufficient cause for a removal?—Perhaps not; but on the contrary a reason to continue him at present and to promote and advance him afterwards. That has been the case before and may probably be so again—But why is the measure which we mete to them so different from that, which we measure to ourselves?—That has been already answered. Because we are Englishmen and they are Americans.—This must be owned to be perfectly just and satisfactory and the Americans are the  
 most

most unreasonable men in the world, if they don't see it exactly in the same light.

But suppose that the Representative Body of the Province should make the complaint?—The answer would then be, that there was no accuser or if any one chose to speak Latin no *delator*.—Suppose that they complain of falsehood and treachery towards the Province?—That would be no charge, no *crimen*.—Suppose that they gave in evidence the party's own letters?—That would complete the thing; for there would then be no evidence, no *testis*. *Nil horum*.—But will this hold water?—Admirably; with respect to America and in Latin.

It is strongly disputed, whether these American letters are of a public or a private nature. This may not in itself be a very important point. However let

us endeavour to settle it, since it lies in our way. Whatever concerns and affects the interests, the welfare and happiness of a whole people is and must be of a public nature, whether papers, letters or any other thing whatsoever. Good and evil are not matters of Law or of Logic. They are the most, if not the only essential circumstances of the world. They are what every thing else refers to. They stamp an eternal mark and difference on all things, which even imagination cannot cancel or erase. The enjoyment of the one and the avoiding of the other is the very end of our being and likewise of all the beings which do or which even can be supposed to exist and which have a sense and perception of them. Whatever therefore relates to the general good and evil of a People is of a public nature. It is that circumstance which makes it so. The terms are as good as synonymous. Whatever concerns on the contrary only  
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this or that individual, is of a private nature. It is confined to his or their happiness or welfare ; to his or their good and evil. There is again the true and unerring criterion. These things seem clear to the greatest degree of intuitive certainty. It is strange to be forced to reason about them. However we are told otherwise. If some compliments happen in a letter to be made to an old Lady, it changes the essence of every thing ; she contracts and confines the whole matter and all becomes of a private nature ; although the chief subject of that very letter should be to advise and point out the means of altering the Charter and of new modelling the Constitution of a Colony and that there should be recommended therein the finding some way according to its own language " to TAKE OFF the original " incendiaries," lest they should " continue to instil their poison into the minds " of the people ;" but the mention of the  
old

old Lady makes it all private. (See Mr. Wedderburn's speech page 94 and letter of Mr. A. Oliver Feb. 13, 1769.) But suppose that these letters were really meant and intended to produce public effects; what will that do?—Nothing at all. If the person had not at that moment a place, to whom they were written, it signifies nothing; although he might have had a post before and might look for one again and although he might have communicated these letters to others for the very purpose of affecting the Public. All this will be of no importance, if the person did not happen to have a place at the time.—Would not one be tempted to think, that as some endeavour to leave no property in America, others have a mind to banish all human reason out of American affairs?

But let us take this matter in another light. Suppose a Prince to have been the  
subject



subject of these letters instead of a People and his conduct and character to have therein been so freely treated and censured instead of theirs and the divesting him of his power and dignity so plainly mentioned and recommended instead of the depriving them of their rights and privileges and the *taking him off* proposed instead of the *taking off* some of them, what would have been the consequence?—High Treason—But might not these have been private letters of friendship and the receiver have secreted and concealed them?—There is no such thing as private letters in the case. No civilities sent to the fairest Lady in the land can make them so. The person receiving must at his own peril carry them to a Secretary of State or to a Justice of the Peace or to some other Magistrate; we don't otherwise want a word for him, which is misprision of treason.—But who would take notice of such a thing?—Let Mr. Attorney or  
 Mr.

Mr. Solicitor answer that—But on what ground is all this?—Because the Prince is supposed to be the public person and to represent the whole people and that what relates to him may affect them—But there are bad Princes and writing against them is sometimes writing in support and in the interests of the Public and of the People—No such plea or proposition is ever suffered. It would on the contrary be an additional crime even to make or to offer it.—But does any one by representing a body acquire more prerogatives, than belong to that body itself or are the Public more affected through a third person than immediately in themselves?—Yes, just so. Say a word against a Prince and beware of informations, indictments, fines, prisons, scaffolds and gibbets. These are the strongest arguments in the world and I never knew any man to get the better in disputing with them. But abuse a People from morning till night and every one

one knows, that the rule and the law is; let them mend their manners, if it is true; let them despise it and leave it to fall on the author, if it is false—I am at the feet of Gamaliel and desire only to learn. I shall not contradict the doctrine concerning a Prince and I subscribe heartily to that about a People. Should these commonwealths of America ever become as strong and independent, as they are now weak and dependent and should they in their greatness and glory remember a word of the humblest and the meanest, but not of the least sincere or the least disinterested of their friends and advocates, it will be, never to employ force and power against reason and argument; to leave those instruments to cabinets and to such as may want them, but to believe Truth to be ever the real interest of the People and the Public and that no other incense or sacrifice should ever be offered at the altars of that Goddess, but the pure oblation of

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a freedom of thinking, speaking and writing. But here it cannot well fail to be observed; that should these people, whose distresses are now pleaded, ever come to be masters both of themselves and of others and to be glutted with power and riches, that they will certainly run the race of the rest of mankind and learn in their turn tyranny and injustice, as their betters and their predecessors have done before them—I answer, no man perhaps believes this, more than myself; however that is not now the case. They are at present the injured and the oppressed party and have as such a claim to the wishes or to the assistance of every generous and unprejudiced person. But whenever the other supposition shall obtain, it is to be hoped, that neither may there in that day be wanting some honest man among them, who will endeavour to make them blush at such a conduct, if he shall not be able to dissuade and divert them from it.

it. However I would willingly in my turn now ask, whether this last observation is also local and confined to America or whether it extends itself likewise to the meridian of Great-Britain?

It is not reason and argument; it is this locality which operates on the present occasion. It is this only, that makes many men easy and indifferent in the case about right and wrong, justice and injustice. Were my countrymen now in England dipped once in the River Delaware, I dare say, that it would make an almost miraculous change in their opinions. If some, who might be named, were transposed into Assembly Men; they would perhaps be as ready to repeal certain late laws, as ever they were to pass them. However I will not go back again to topics, which seem sufficient to awaken the most lethargic Englishman out of his soundest sleep; but I desire to put a case relating to

this locality itself and its power and effects, when it is to be hoped, that we shall not find in the mirror any similitude or representation of ourselves.

At the beginning of the last century, there lived a gentleman of the name of Fawkes. He hired a house and some cellars and other apartments in Westminster. We will suppose that he had a lease of them. A lease is for the time as good as a purchase. It might not indeed be stamped; but stamps were not then in fashion, it was good without. He bought some gunpowder. It is to be believed, that he paid honestly for it. He could perhaps have produced for it a receipt. He placed it in the cellars or other apartments hired by him. He had indeed a mind to amuse himself with blowing up the Legislature of England, no doubt with the good intention of introducing a better. However he and his trains were  
discovered

discovered and the nation not relishing his projects he met with another reward than he desired. But suppose, that he and Garnet and the rest of their associates, instead of falling into the hands of an English Jury, had been tried at Rome before the Consistory Court or any other Court there, they would no doubt have found an advocate. That is no other than the duty of the profession. I won't take upon me to say, whether he would in this case have flourished about private property, trespass or forcible entry; but whatever turn the Italian council had thought proper to give the cause of his clients, has any one seriously the least doubt, but that they would have been cleared and acquitted and probably by the Court of Rome itself in good time preferred and promoted. So much can a difference of climate do. But Fawkes and Garnet and their friends were fools, Jesuits as some of them were. They did

not understand their trade. They might have been told better ways of blowing up Legislatures than with gunpowder ; that don't make a quarter of the crack and combustion, but which are ten times more effectual.

But our colonies might be well enough, were it not for Dr. Franklin, who has with a brand lighted from the clouds set fire to all America—No Governments care ever to acknowledge the people to be fairly against them. For whatever may be the case with the opinions of the multitude in abstruse and refined matters, which but little concern them nor do they much trouble themselves about ; yet the end and therefore the touchstone and trial of all Government being their welfare and happiness, there is not common modesty in affecting to despise and refuse their sense concerning their own good and evil, their own feelings, benefits or sufferings.



ferings. It is in these things that the voice of the People is said to approach, that of their Maker. The sycophants of Ministers endeavour therefore to throw on the artifice and influence of individuals all discontent or dissatisfaction of the Public. Mr. Wilkes moves England and Dr. Franklin America; as if we had here no feeling, but through the first and they had there neither eyes or ears, but by the latter. It were happy for mankind, if Administrations procured their own votes and majorities with as much fairness, as the voice of the People is commonly obtained. I wonder, whether we should then have ever heard of any Government in Europe indebted in the sum of a hundred and forty millions sterling or be at this moment under the alarm of a parent state attacking its own colonies or of a great empire setting at work its fleets and armies only to throw the parts of itself into mischief and confusion.

fusion. It is idle and childish to be crying out against this or that private person. The truth is, that whenever Governments heap up combustibles, there will always be found a hand to put the match to them or these would heat and take fire of themselves, if there were not.

But it seems, that Dr. Franklin recommended to his constituents for the rule of their conduct to refrain from all force and violence, but to preserve and keep alive in the mean time their claims by votes and resolves. (Wedderburn's speech page 110 and 111.) I have nothing to do with the defence of any individual. However what more prudent or honest advice could on the occasion have been conceived or offered? Is the hour very far off, when every man in Britain and among the rest the Minister himself and perhaps even his royal and illustrious Master may most earnestly wish; that the same spirit of peace had inspired

inspired, the same caution and consideration guided the public counsels here at home on the subject, as appear to have dictated this advice attributed to Dr. Franklin for the direction of our countrymen beyond the Atlantick. This may, I say, indeed happen soon, but with this most wide and infinite difference; that the time may then be too late, that the circumstances of things can no more be recalled, but that the lot of our good or our evil, of our peace or our confusion and possibly even of our existence or our dissolution as a state shall before have fatally and irrecoverably been cast.

However is not Mr. W.'s Philippick against the Doctor a capital performance? —I am sure that I have not the least inclination to depreciate the ingenuity of that learned Gentleman, whose argument I have been making so free with. But the being charmed with spruce expressions or  
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a smartness of invective, where the subject makes against the privileges or the liberties of a People; what is it better, than if a parcel of prisoners or of galley-slaves were so abject as to take a pleasure in the noise and the rattling, or as it were, in the music of their own chains ?

I am drawing towards an end of my career. However I will first say something to the Americans themselves. I observe them to charge sometimes on the British subjects in general the measures, with which they are aggrieved. Herein they do us wrong. I may venture to affirm; that there would not be hurt the hair of the head of an American, were it to be voted by all our country. Every one must remember, the universal satisfaction produced by the repeal of the Stamp Act and it would no doubt be the same again, were the present measures discharged and remitted. But it often happens;

pens; that Representatives and their Constituents are in the most essential and the most important points directly and diametrically opposite to one another. I don't pretend to account for this. It is a fatality or perhaps it is a new kind of Representation. But the Americans should consider, that two different parts of a country may be oppressed by one and the same hand. Administrations have been squandering and running us in debt at home, until our whole substance is wasted and consumed. It may now be coming to their turn. But *procul a Jove, procul a fulmine*. Great-Britain is first brought to its extremity. Let any of our dependencies compare their burthens with ours and then complain of the nation, if they shall find that ours are the lighter. I don't mean to make a merit of this; but let them suppose the same strong hand to be upon us both, when they shall have been convinced, how little we are in this respect to be envied. I am

I am unwilling to take my leave without saying likewise one word to my Countrymen of England. It is not only riches and power, men and money, which the center of Government receives from the detached parts of its dominions, but likewise credit and honour in the world. The Scotch and the Irish are as good men, as any in Europe. This is well known, wherever they seek service and establishments and the which they are left to do in more parts, than is for the benefit of Great-Britain. Our Countrymen of America have not yet so figured in our quarter of the globe; but it is hardly a compliment to place them clearly at the head of their own, the offspring of all other people there included. If there are any spoil'd children of our national family, it must be the English themselves; unless that riches and luxury mend the manners of men. But nevertheless being so the feat  
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of Empire and all commands issuing from our capital and our name being forward, the actions, the merits, the figure, the reputation and the glory of all our Countrymen whatsoever and wheresoever do exceedingly redound to us and to the honour of England and of Englishmen. There is another circumstance, which none of us can observe but with pleasure. I mean that we seem to be as individuals, on as fair terms with the other parts of our nation, as they with one another; that the name of Englishman is as acceptable and will go with them as far, as that of any other of the appellations, into which we are separated. Whether this is our desert or a consequence of the same cause, I won't say; however it is what cannot but afford us satisfaction. In return for these things they desire no more than a just sense and acknowledgement of them. Whether we do make this return, whether these circumstances have always the weight

weight with us, which they merit; Englishmen will best determine by examining into their own breasts. But this we may be assured of; that the good will, affection and attachment of our Countrymen spread throughout our common Empire will be our firmest strength and security, if it shall be our lot to continue in our present splendor and prosperity; as likewise that the same cannot but be our best support and assistance, wherewith to weather the storms of fate and fortune, if Heaven shall on the contrary have any reverse or times of difficulty and distress in store for us.

I have now finished, unless it may be a few words with respect to the Author himself. He hopes, that should in the warmth of writing any inadvertencies or inaccuracies have escaped him, that they will be readily overlooked; he is persuaded, that there are none such, as affect  
his



his argument. He has wrote with freedom, but he trusts without offence; he has no personal views whatsoever in any thing, that he has advanced or offered; he has no interest in any distant part of the British Dominions, neither in Scotland Ireland or America; he has neither trade or traffick with them nor a foot of land in any of them. His concerns, his property, his family, his friendships, his affections, every thing most dear to him center in South-Britain. He has no intercourse or connexion with any man, that either is or that ever was or who to the best of his knowledge desires to be a Minister. He is totally indifferent, who shall be at the head of our affairs, any otherwise than as the Public may be concerned in it. He would not perhaps in his humble situation accept of any place or post, high or low, which the King has to confer, great and powerful as he is.

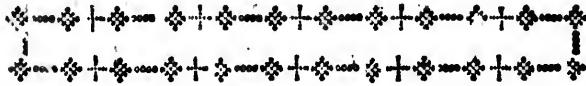
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He wishes only that these sheets may be read, as they are written, with the purest and the most disinterested intentions for the good, the greatness and the stability of the whole British Empire, for the union, harmony and preservation of all its parts and for the particular interest, safety, peace, prosperity and happiness of England.

*April 1774.*



F I N I S.



## A P P E N D I X.

THE foregoing sheets were first published in April and we are now in the next November: time and events have in the short intervening space of seven months but too plainly and too strongly confirmed the opinions respecting our American measures and their consequences, which were then presumed by the Author to be laid before the Public. It is in the preceding pages explained; that the plan proposed and confided in by the Administration on that occasion appeared to be, that the removal of the Custom-house and the suspension of the commerce of Boston would soon bring on

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their knees and subject to our commands the inhabitants of that town and of its colony; who were by that means to become besides their own obedience an example likewise and a terror to the rest of their brethren on that continent: but the policy and the probability of this fine-spun scheme are there doubted of, questioned and discussed. It is represented that the harsh and violent measures then carrying on would in America be received no otherwise, than as a declaration of war and depend upon the same issue; that it could only be by force and by conquest, if they were submitted to; that we must expect to have to do with an union of that continent; that it would among them be made a common cause not to be taxed by us and that they would certainly join, combine and associate together for their general and mutual assistance and defence. Is there any occasion to say  
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whether or no these things have proved true ?

We were at the same time warned ; that if it was intended to use force and violence, the decision might not be so very soon or so very sure ; that these being a truly free people and their governments democratical, they would be able to arm every man in their country ; that necessity would besides their Committees of Correspondence then subsisting teach them other means of moving and of acting together ; that they would probably have at their head some of the wisest and of the ablest men of their country ; that the influence of our Governors and of our other civil officers would shrink to nothing nor our own authority probably extend further, than where it was enforced by our own troops ; that our very soldiery would desire and endeavour to leave us and to go over to

the Americans. Has one word of all this fallen to the ground or is there almost a single sentence of it, which is not now become a matter of fact?

It was further set forth; that no immediate impression upon the town of Boston or possession taken of it by a fleet or an army would carry the command of all that continent or force them to submit to measures so universally against their bent and inclinations, but that on the contrary the most strenuous and most vigorous exertions were from that whole people to be expected in support of their common liberties and properties. May I call on our Ministers and demand whether they are not themselves sensible by this time of all these things?

I will pass by other particulars of the same sort, that I may not tire my reader with the repetition of them. However  
I hope,

I hope, that the presumption will be pardoned, should it be asked ; Whether there is any one event as yet come on in the order of time and the course of things, which has contradicted or happened otherwise ; than what was before pointed out ? This gives a great prejudice and suspicion with respect to the further train remaining yet to follow. However there is behind and among the things in suspense one particular circumstance of such a magnitude, that all these other incidents are in comparison of it, but as the dust upon the balance. I mean ; that should by these measures either the public expences increase or income decrease or both together, so that the national revenue shall fail and we be rendered unable to proceed in paying the whole interest of our debt ; then will in all appearance be no longer delayed the day and the hour of our destruction, but that conjuncture prove the latest and the uttermost term of

our peace, our prosperity and our stability, as a state and a nation. This point is much pressed in the former sheets; however heaven avert, that fate should in the due order of things and at some perhaps not very distant moment of time demonstrate it to be, as well grounded; as have already been found so many other cautions and warnings before given! But if we sow the seeds, it may be depended on, that the fruits will follow: causes and effects keep their course, like day and night: events appear to be preparing and bringing on that period: men and things, counsels and actions, signs and appearances seem to tend to that catastrophe. However the Writer presumes to offer once more to the Public the mite of his sentiments upon the state of our affairs in America, as it stands now altered since the date of the preceding pages; while we have yet allotted a time to do it, while there is room for reflection and that any thing



thing remains more for Britons, than only to relate the story of their ruin.

This attack upon that continent appeared to many people most unreasonable and most unpromising from the very beginning ; futurity has nevertheless before it a constant cloud and obscurity, which no human eye can perfectly penetrate : rashness and inconsiderateness do sometimes make this more of a pretence, than the case will well warrant ; but however doubtful the matter might then be or not, time has now opened events and fact and certainty have in many respects taken place on the subject. It is clear and sure ; that the proposed plan and project have failed and miscarried. We sent out at first forces fit for our intended design. The common language used in commendation of the measure was, that a few regiments and a few small ships of war would do the business. But we are now calling and gather-

ing together an army from all quarters, from England, from Ireland, from several different parts of America and even our newly conquer'd province of Quebec is to be unguarded and unfurnished; that we may be enabled to carry on a war against our ancient Colonies and our own Countrymen. We have instead of commanding and of bringing to taxation and to subjection all America by the means of the town of Boston lost the rest of that continent and not gained the town. We have with our own hands and by our own counsels got things into such a state; that our Colonies obey their Governors no further, than they please, and that they are unanimously and publicly preparing to oppose measure to measure or force to force, as they shall upon the event judge most necessary; while that bicoque of New-England looks us in the face upon an equality and holds up its head as highly, as we do ourselves. Matters are ten times  
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more embroiled, than they were, wear ten times a worse and a more threatening aspect, than they did seven months ago and before that we entered on these measures : every step taken forwards in our present track seems only to lead us into further mischief and difficulties. Our Administration is in the mean time become the wonder and the contempt of all Europe. When we find therefore, that we are going on in a road directly wrong, why don't we take a contrary course ? This appears to be a most obvious step ; there is no uncommon reach of reason or extraordinary depth of human wisdom demanded to make that conclusion. It is an old proverb ; that wise men do often, but fools never change their opinion. No one little or great need scruple to alter for the better his actions or his measures ; it is surely his first praise and first prudence so to do : but what must be thought of those, whom facts and events themselves will  
not

not convince or who being convinced are nevertheless determined to strive and to contend against the irresistible force of them? Our political pilots have a fair and a direct wind for the port, to which the Commonwealth is bound; but they are obstinately bent to run counter to it, to buffet storms and tempests, to risque rocks and quicksands and to endanger in the greatest degree the common adventure and fortunes of us all. We read a fabulous story of an ancient Roman said to have leaped into a gulph to save Rome: but what will posterity believe; when they shall be told of the men of these times, who run headlong down a precipice for no apparent end, but to carry along with them their country into the same ruin?

The original design and expectation were at least sufficiently plain and intelligible; but the Administration having  
 been

been deceived in them, there is now no longer left the least appearance of prudence or of policy in our proceedings : it is become difficult to comprehend, what the authors or the friends of these measures pursue even in their own breasts. Let any one within the bounds of probability or almost of possibility fancy in his mind events at pleasure and let him reflect by what steps, what means, what chain of incidents and accidents, what train within the wit of man to trace, it can be expected, that we shall in this violent and military method of going on come to a good and advantageous conclusion and I believe, that he will evidently find himself at a default on the subject. I am persuaded, that our rulers would themselves be put to it to lay down fairly and clearly their own plan nor is any such commonly known and understood : the facts are public ; the other would no doubt not be difficult to find,

find, if reason, appearances and probability suggested or admitted of any such. The Chaplains of our regiments are not to chop logick with the Americans and to reason them into the being taxed at Westminster: that is not the intention nor will hard words bring this about from whencesoever trumpeted—No: we will force them to it—Be it so. Let us without considering the chance of war or resistance suppose Boston in ashes, no one stone of it standing on another, the inhabitants, men, women and children buried under its ruins and all this havock and destruction the effect of our cannon, bombs and mortars. This would no doubt be a noble event; Europe would stare and it would exceedingly redound to the honour and the glory of the Government, that should atchieve it: However let us come to the consequences; the mischief and the evil are easily found, rage and despair reigning every-  
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where, all our Colonies crying out for vengeance, America in arms and in open and avowed revolt against Great-Britain : these things need not to be pointed out : but how are butchery and massacre to conduct us to peace, to a settlement, to a restoration of union and of harmony or to any desirable end whatsoever ? All regard for the Americans being banished out of the question, either as brethren or as men ; it can nevertheless not be pretended, that we ought likewise to lose sight of the true interest and the benefit of our more immediate country of Great-Britain nor are we surely to seek for any other views or motives of our public counsels on the occasion, than those. God forbid, that there should instead prevail passion, resentment, an impatience of opposition and of disappointment, a thirst for revenge and for the blood of the people of Boston and of New-England : heaven avert, that there should directly or  
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indirectly, more nearly or more remotely be at this moment preparing or meditating any desperate stroke, which may disjoin America and Great - Britain in a manner to be never united more ! I will not deny, but that the question respecting the plan of our conduct may with less difficulty be explained, if some such unfit principles and considerations are to be taken into the account.

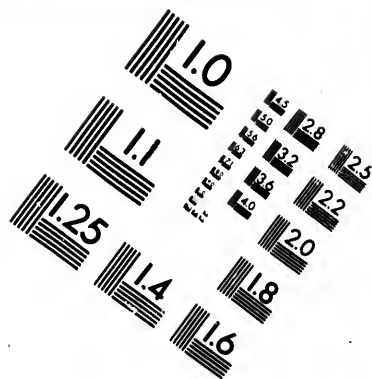
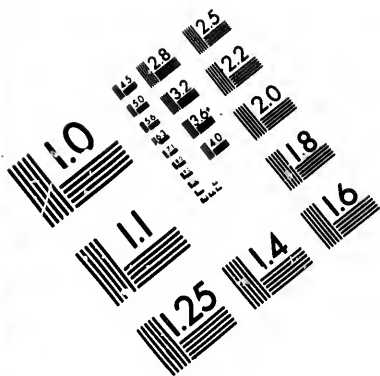
But some one may say ; What a strange tragedy and image have here been introduced ? Who thinks of any such thing ? We would not for the world be the aggressors ; but if the people of Boston or of New - England shall begin first and shall attack or unlawfully resist us ; you know, that the wrong will then be with them and that all, which we shall do, will be nothing but self-defence and the execution of the law nor do we wage war but with men. I answer ; that this is too high,



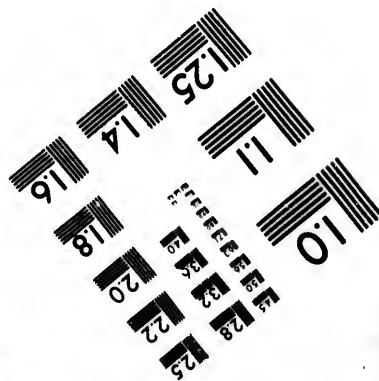
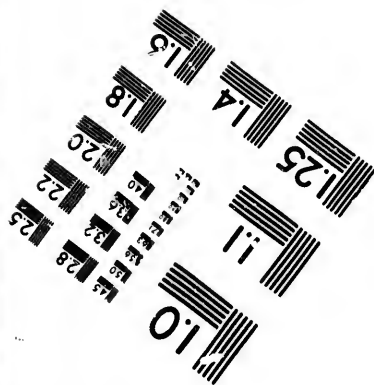
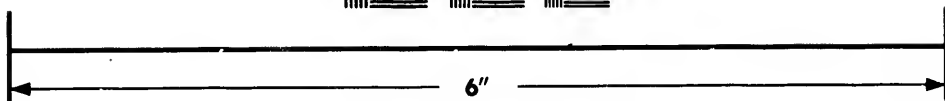
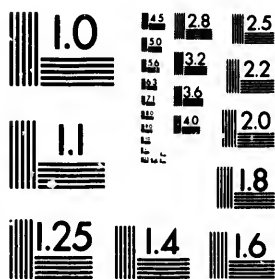
high, too home and too serious a subject, on which for any one to refuse himself or to be readily refused by others freedom of speech. I presume; that it is within the lawful liberty of an Englishman to demand in return; to what end are then intended a military Governor, a fleet, an army, artillery, warlike provision and ammunition and supplies and reinforcements of these things together with acts of Parliament, which it was known, would not be obeyed? Are all these red-coats and regiments mustered there only to assist the people of America in the clearing of their plantations, the reaping of their harvests or the watching of their flocks and their herds? Should any one start at the idea of Boston being overthrown: what would he say, were he in plain English told; that there is no appearance or probability of carrying into execution some certain measures without cutting the throats of almost all our America,

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rica, without dying its forests, its swamps and its savannahs with the blood of those, whose ancestors fled from their country and went thither in hopes of finding refuge from the tyranny and the oppression of the Governors of Great-Britain? What does it matter, who dies a victim the first or the last and whether by the sword, the musket and the bayonet or by famine, distress and misery, when a whole region shall be laid waste and depopulated? Is it difficult to pick a quarrel on any subject or to drive a people into despair and then to destroy them for being desperate or are there wanting writers or speakers to defend any action or any measure? But will the glossing, the quibbling, the flattery of pensioners or of sycophants heal the wounds, calm the minds, appease the passions, reconcile the affections or blind and confound the understandings of an injured and exasperated continent consisting of many numerous and flourishing  
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provinces and inhabited by a people possessed and inspired with a love of liberty almost lost to the shame of the human species out of Europe, but most powerful and irresistible wherever it prevails and is united with the means of defence? I don't mean to talk to Ministers and to Statesmen about right and wrong, humanity, compassion and the cardinal virtues: but I repeat; that there is in these measures full as little of the policy of Machiavel, as of the morality of Grotius or the religion of the Whole Duty of Man; not a whit more of the wisdom of the serpent, than of the innocence of the dove.

The sense of the nation is in the mean time most strong against these transactions: people were not at the beginning so much moved; they appear not to have believed, that any men at the head of a state would really be so wild and so headlong, as to bring about in effect,

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what now stares them most strongly and most fully in the face: it is well understood that the All of the Public and of every private person is upon a desperate cast at stake against nothing: men raise their eyes and their hands with horror, when they speak on the occasion: they sympathise in common with the Americans and express plainly and roundly their own sentiments on their account: such are on the contrary silent and reserved on the subject, who are used to direct their discourse by mean motives: the change or discharge of these measures would be a most sincere and universal satisfaction. Shall then a great nation with its eyes open and sensible of its situation and its danger be drawn or driven upon its ruin by a few men among them and those perhaps intrusted for its safety and its protection? Where is in that case the Constitution or what is our pretended and our boasted representation? Is there  
nothing,

nothing, nothing even to the utmost extremity of our destruction, but what corruption can compass and prostitution will perform? These proceedings are of that dangerous and destructive tendency, that whoever promotes or unites in them, does as a private man light a brand to fire his own house and to lay waste his own estate; but as one of the public, he concurs with his own hand to thrust a dagger into the heart of his already wounded, helpless and almost expiring country. It may be wondered; how any such person can hold up his hands towards heaven to pray for prosperity on him or his, which he does himself so directly counteract. Can then any nation famous for its freedom want in such an extremity some proper remedy and resource against the rage, the madness or the incapacity of an Administration?

I answer; that our ancestors were far from being so careless of those to come



after them, as to have left us in concerns depending on our own domestic government without means very sufficient for our safety and our welfare. The people of Great-Britain have a lawful, constitutional, acknowledged, undisputed, undoubted power of application and petition. This is an inherent right of every county, every city, every borough, every body of men in it and which any one may be confident ; that no King, no Minister and, let me add, no Parliament will resist or withstand ; if the exertion of it shall be general, universal and unanimous, such as shall evidently speak with the full and the clear voice of the whole nation: it may in such a case be depended upon for sufficient and effectual. Never did perhaps any period of our history more require such an exertion, than the present moment. I will not repeat, what has been said with respect to the stake either of the public or of private persons ; but even the Minister must in all ap-  
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pearance be in his own breast pleased with it. It might afford him a fair opportunity or almost force him to withdraw his foot out of difficulties; in which, he cannot but by this time be sensible, how rashly and inconsiderately he has involved both himself and his country. What unaccountable fatality is it, which can prevent any one at the helm of a nation from taking of his own accord so prudent and so salutary a step. But this matter mounts higher. The King is blessed with a fair and a large family from whom even a private parent might promise himself the greatest comfort and felicity; but much more may his Majesty, if they near him shall by their fatal and unfortunate counsels mingle no bitter in his cup. However let all loyal subjects well reflect and especially they first in favour; whether these measures are not of such a magnitude and a malignity, that they may either immediately or in their consequences

quences throw the whole state into the last confusion, endanger our becoming a prey to foreign powers, shake the Throne itself and disturb one day the peace and the happiness of our gracious Prince even within his own palace and in the midst of his numerous royal progeny. To whomsoever we may therefore presume on this subject to offer up our humble petitions, we shall beseech those respectable persons to bless and to secure equally both the public and themselves.

It seems the more necessary to use this last safe resource of the Constitution, as it is difficult to find any other help, that is left for us under heaven. Our political parties and their leaders bear a suspicion of covering and concealing under pretences of the general Good designs of personal ambition and advancement. The people of England have had but too much experience in that respect. What division,  
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what connection, what denomination of men among us have not in their turn spoiled and plundered this poor country? Our liberties and our properties were before the Revolution attacked under the pretence of Prerogative by a set of men, who bore the name and who invented or advanced the doctrines of Tories; but the virtue of our ancestors saved us then. Through how long a series of successive Administrations has since that time this nation been sold, bartered and betrayed by a race of false, pretended, unworthy and venal Whigs; whose endeavours towards our destruction have unfortunately been more successful, than those of their predecessors? God forbid, that we should now be ready to receive our fatal and our final stroke from the joint force of both these causes, from the accursed practice of corruption united with the senseless principles of a boundless obedience of the People and of an extravagant power of

the Crown ! These evils do not perhaps least prevail in the very places, which ought most to be a sanctuary and a security against them. What is become of the ancient public spirit of England, when the first in rank and in fortune were ever the foremost to protect the rights of the whole ? It is for the honour of our name and our nation to be hoped, that this noble passion of the human breast is retired and is setting up its standard among our Countrymen on the Continent, if it has totally fled from this once free and fortunate island. It must grieve any one to ask ; Whether there are none even in the respected band of our professed Patriots, who had it once in their power to have utterly extinguished, but who left unhappily and purposely to lurk and to smother in their proceedings and in their own Acts of Parliament this very pretension, and, as it were, the same fire, which has since broken  
out

out so fiercely and which threatens now to consume in one common flame both Britain and America? However it is to be hoped, that these persons will from such violent and such evident mischiefs be at length convinced nor continue backward to concur and to contribute towards some sufficient measures for the lasting peace and relief of our country and our colonies. But we are now upon the brink of the precipice: our situation admits no longer of our being led blindfold: it is too late for us to trust either to thorough-paced Ministers or to half-paced Patriots: the time requires this nation to declare its own genuine sense, perhaps its last sense of its condition and its circumstances. How can we otherwise expect in this case the assistance of Providence itself than in employing the powers, which his goodness has by the means of the Constitution and the provision of our ancestors been pleased to lodge

lodge with us for that apparent purpose ?

But it may be said, have not we a legal Representative and is not that sufficient ? I shall leave the matter of fact to answer with respect to the sufficiency, but I desire to say something in explanation of of the point itself. I hope to be perfectly understood, that I don't at all mean to deny our having such a legal representative ; but it is surely just and becoming for us to discourse on subjects of this consequence with one another, like men. I presume, that it is permitted for any one to ask ; whether there is not some distinction between a legal representative and a real one. All bodies of men speak and act by their majority. It is a handful of people in comparison of the whole nation, which chuse the major part of our House of Commons. I may in saying this express myself freely ; but I offend no worthy

thy or honest man. No such will ever take offence at a notorious truth and none can well be more so, than the fact, which is now mentioned. How can then in the common use and sense of the English language any body of men really represent any others, than those by whom the greater part of them are named and appointed for that purpose? This may not interfere with a legal representation nor do I declare myself any opinion about a real one. I am on the subject ready to receive with respect the dictates of my betters. It may perhaps be a mystery in politics or something not at this moment comprehended by the writer. However this legal, this real representative or in what manner soever that honourable body is to be described, they do ever suffer their fellow-subjects to apply to them by petition through the hands of any one of their own members. This circumstance is there necessary, but it seems to make

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no effectual difference. The right or practice itself has never been denied or disputed nor therefore has it stood in need of the sanction of an Act of Parliament. The road is yet more direct to the Throne: the subject presents of himself and without intervention his petition there. This right was at the Revolution confirmed in as fit terms, as the truest friend of the freedom of his country could have found. There are therefore required no strings or belts to clear either of these ways: they remain ever plain and open and lead immediately to those who can afford us effectual redress and assistance. Thus stands then this point: Our throne is hereditary, our peerage is hereditary, the major part of our House of Commons is appointed by an inconsiderable proportion of the nation: can then many words be wanted to recommend or to enforce the practice of petition by the people

ple and the Public or is the community to have no share in its own constitution, in its legislature, its government and the determination of its most important and most essential concerns?

However as we have in our hands proper, prudent and peaceable means of stopping or of diverting these measures, so let us on the other side consider; whether we shall not by a neglect of them become partakers in the guilt of the wrongs done to the Americans and of the ruin brought on ourselves and our posterity. All people are responsible for the public conduct of those, whom they appoint or consent to be over them: this is the law of men and of nations, but it is likewise that of a higher power; it is the law of nature. I observe with reverence, that Providence seems to unite together the interests and concerns, the fate and fortunes of each state and of each kingdom and to demand  
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at their hands an account of the actions of their respective rulers, whether Princes, Ministers or any other: their prosperity and their adversity appear to be in a great degree dealt out to them according to that circumstance. It is strange, on what ground some people found their presumption; for the Public does not only appoint Government in its first original; but it is most evident, that it does afterwards continue at all times to answer for the conduct and the measures of its Governors both to God and to man. But with respect to our own case in the present instance, can there be in the affairs of humanity a fairer or a more equitable condition, than for people to have in their own power the means of removing their danger and of securing their stability? However it behoves us to remember on what terms we enjoy it. The Americans may one day require at our hands and retaliate upon us their own sufferings and

and most certainly will do so; if we shall not exert to effect these means inherent in us, but that the things and the events already begun and in motion shall come to extremity. The story of the war carried on by the Dutch in support of their liberty against the Portuguese and the Spaniards will sufficiently teach us this; if we need to go beyond our own reason for such a piece of instruction. We have in ourselves and placed in our hands the power on this occasion of insuring our own safety and of restoring to our Colonies and our Countrymen of America their rights, their peace, their properties, and their liberties, a most noble and inestimable privilege, but in all appearance not entrusted to us without account.

It may however be asked; What way is then to be taken, what clue can be found, that may lead us out of our present perplexity and difficulties? I answer,  
that

that it is much more easy to embroil a state, which is in peace and in tranquillity; than it is to reduce it again to the same desirable situation, when it shall once be so embroiled. However I will in so important a matter venture to hazard an opinion, although with some uncertainty of the future fact whereon it is grounded. There is said to be sitting at Philadelphia a Congress of some of the most respectable persons of that Continent. It appears probable, that there may from them come in some shape or another propositions to the Public or to the Government. Should that be so let not these be out of an ill-judged pride or idea of superiority despised and refused, but on the contrary adopted and made the ground and the foundation of a future settlement and establishment between us and America: I won't prevaricate or deny that, I mean in some measure a new one; for of returning again exactly and pre-

precisely to the former and ancient one, there is not the least appearance of probability; although there shall in the way be nothing more, than what is known to have already happened. They have once trusted to our experience and our prudence; however they have found these but a weak and a slender security. They will undoubtedly expect some stronger and better barrier, some line to be drawn or some land-mark to be fixed in futurity between us. I speak it with the utmost sincerity; that I verily believe them to understand the joint interests of Great Britain and of America, better than we do and that they will in the first instance propose nothing unfit or unbecoming with respect to this country; but should we neglect or reject proper terms, when they are offered, we may perhaps afterwards not come readily to the same again. Our Charles the first granted ten times more at last, than would have contented and have satisfied at first; but he

ever suffered himself to be forced: that was his evil policy and evil fortune. None thanked him, for what he did. He lost at length all; his head not excepted. Do not let our state or our government imitate in their conduct that unfortunate prince. There may directly be for a kingdom no block or scaffold; but there are just and equal laws and a severe and irresistable fatality attending upon the transgression of them. What is in the general course of an infinite universe perpetually proceeding in obedience to those laws the existence, the rise or the fall of a state any more upon the comparison, than that of a single person? These are not light and trifling matters, which are now in operation, a Mid-summer night's dream or the story of a day; with which we may divert ourselves at our will. It may be depended upon; that it is for ever, if these provinces, shall once be severed from us. The command and the government of  
great

great countries are not to be taken up again at pleasure, when they shall have fallen from the hand, that holds them, like the play-things of children.

But it may be observed to have been thrown out, that France and Spain would interfere; whereas nothing of that kind has happened nor are we disturbed by either of them. I answer, that their Ministers of State must otherwise have been, much as thoughtless and as inconsiderate, as our own. It is fit, that the fish should fasten on the hook or be entangled in the net beyond the power of getting free, before the hand appears, which is to strike or to make a prey of it. He is surely but a poor politician, who can be laid asleep by those two Cabinets being more cunning than to stay or to turn us in the beginning of a career, which must be so much to their satisfaction and their inclination. It is an old proverb, that any one should make a bridge of gold for his enemy,



when he is flying from him. Is it to be doubted, but that these Powers would willingly pave almost with any materials and at any expence a way for us by which to march and to attack our own provinces, those provinces which have so long been the support of ourselves and the envy of other nations. It has been said; that they have before now found the means of paving the way to their own peace with us; but heaven forbid, that they should ever find that of putting us at daggers-draw among ourselves, of engaging in a war with one another the mother-country and our Colonies of North-America! Whenever that ill-star'd hour shall arrive and by whose folly or artifice soever brought about, the arms of our rivals will hardly be wanted to lay the glory and the greatness of Britain in the dust. France and Spain laugh and sing in the mean time to see what we are doing and it may be depended upon, that they know better than to meddle at this moment in our broils. There

There is another point, to which I would speak a word, before I have done. Some sycophants and makers of mischief on the other side of the Atlantic seem to have had no small part in causing the present disturbances. Why should otherwise all these have rather arisen in Massachusetts-Bay, than in Connecticut or in Rhode-Island; except that we appoint the Governors in the former and that the people themselves do so in the latter. The counsels of these men must upon experience have been found wrong and mistaken. They magnified the mighty power of Parliaments and appear to have flattered some people here, as if their finger was irresistible. Had they pointed out events, as they have really happened; it is impossible, that we should have conducted ourselves, as we have actually done. All this may clearly be accounted for, if we suppose one principle, which is; that they meant to advance themselves in Great-Britain, however their endeavours

deavours might turn out either for us or for America. It would be a most strange thing, should these same persons be still consulted, countenanced and encouraged. We ought to be sensible, how dearly we have already paid on that article. The Writer does not know the face of one of them ; I speak singly for the sake of the Public: but there can in all appearance no common good come to the two countries of Great-Britain and of North-America, until that these fatal authors of our mutual evils shall be banished from all counsels and confidence.

So much for my present object. I have on this occasion not entered into the difficulty or rather the apparent impossibility of subduing with a few thousands of soldiers from England a very great Continent, most strong in itself and defended by some hundreds of thousands of its inhabitants naturally placed over the different parts and commanding all the  
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produce and the advantages of the country and who are armed, trained and ready to take the field in defence of what they believe to be their all; men of tried bravery and that have upon experience performed many actions of remark: I have not insisted on the absolute certainty of their finding in case of a direct rupture and revolt from Great-Britain foreign assistance: I have not mentioned our Ministers having wantonly and in all appearance out of personal ambition taken upon themselves the affairs of our East-India Company and having by that means subjected on any contention with the native Powers of those regions the nation to the danger of being one day found between the two fires of the West-Indies and of the East and perhaps at the same time a fire in Europe hotter than either of the others: I have not examined the burthen of our national debt pressing in the midst of these circumstances most heavily upon us: I have not touched on

very many other topicks respecting our present ill-judg'd and ill-omen'd attempt: these were of a preceding subject. This matter has now been only taken up on the ground, where it was left upon a former argument and upon our measures and the change and the state of affairs in America since that time: here will I likewise leave it once more.

It is not owing to a want of information, to a want of understanding, to a want of a sense and a knowledge of the importance or the imprudence of our American measures; if some people of property, of capacity, of independence seem to sleep supinely, while a rock is ready to fall and to crush their country. There is in public concerns an abjectness, which obtains and daily increases among us and that in a rank of men, where it ought least to prevail and to whom others are intitled to look up in a time of danger or of difficulty. The rise and the beginning

ning of this might readily be pointed out: it was not first of this reign: but these men may truly be told; that there is no support for themselves, but in the stability of all; that their private fortunes and possessions will in the common destruction most inevitably go to wreck and to ruin with the rest: the cloud from the Atlantic threatens them, as well as the merchant and the manufacturer, the farmer and the labourer. But we seem not to remember, that we are born Britons; that Governments are instituted for the good of the govern'd and for that only; that we have in our immediate, personal and collective capacity an inherent right to signify our sentiments of the national measures to those who contrive, govern and direct them; that the concern therein of many is upon the comparison much as considerable one for one as their own, but that of all united and taken together almost as the ocean to a drop of  
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water; that we are men and not a flock of sheep forced to follow our fellow, because he happens to bear a bell about his neck. The Writer has thrown out these things from a sincere and earnest desire of the general safety and welfare; he heartily hopes that the seed is sown in good ground and that it will bear fruit for the benefit of the whole: but if after all the hand of fate is upon this nation; if the period approaches, in which we are doomed to perish; if there is at once an incurable madness in our councils and a boundless obsequiousness in our proper guardians and protectors; if the constitution is forgotten and men of weight and of respect abandon their country; I must say, that his will be done, who governs both individuals and communities: I trust nevertheless, that these words will not be so lost, but that they shall at least preserve one private person from the charge and the consciousness of having scrupled to speak plainly his opinion

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nion and his expectation of the dangers and the evils impending over the public.

*Nov. 1774.*

*End of the APPENDIX.*

*P. S.* During the printing of these sheets authentic accounts are come of resolutions respecting a suspension of commerce between America and Great-Britain being entered into and recommended by the Congress held at Philadelphia. This is another material circumstance and consideration pointed out and pressed in the foregoing book: I mean now to make no reflections on the subject: time will tell, whether the consequences shall also be such, as are there  
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supposed or conceived. There is another  
 vote of the same meeting, which is both  
 so very plain and so very important, that  
 I cannot omit to repeat it in its own  
 words, which are "That the Congress  
 " approve of the opposition by the in-  
 " habitants of the Massachusetts-Bay to  
 " the execution of the late Acts of Par-  
 " liament and if the same should be at-  
 " tempted to be carried into execution  
 " by force, all America ought in such  
 " a case to support them in their oppo-  
 " sition." This neither needs nor ad-  
 mits of any comment; but how amply  
 does it fulfill what we were on that head  
 forewarn'd! However let us at least not  
 neglect the caution, which it contains  
 for the time to come. It is likewise  
 almost impossible for an Englishman not  
 to observe with the most sincere regret;  
 that the first proceedings of a new and an  
 essential assembly among ourselves have  
 been such, as must by all men in our  
 America

America be understood to approve and to maintain in the highest and the harsh-est of language the measures carrying on against them. It becomes the Writer to receive with respect these resolves of our Legislature; however I shall in regard thereto desire once more every person having for his country any concern most seriously to consider, whether humble, constitutional, general and universal petitions are not our last and our only remaining, although at the same time our sure and our certain resource, if they shall duly and properly be employed and applied.

*The E N D.*

