

Gentlemen and reputed Gentlemen and many others who are not included in your Bill ought to be taxed

U. H. J.
Liber No. 35
May 4

We still think that our Objection against the Tax upon Debts due to Non Residents and their Effects, and all Goods Wares and Merchandizes imported into this Country from England is well founded. As to your Argument that the Imposition of the Tax will not diminish the Importation of the Commodities of the Mother Country or interfere with her Trade, it does not satisfy us, for tho' perhaps the Tax might not, and the whole Burthen would fall upon the People here which we think it certainly would, yet it can't but be apprehended that such an Imposition would give some Cause of Jealousy be deemed to be inconsistent with our Charter and dependent State, and that it would be thought a prudent Measure in our Superiors to check in the Beginning any the least Step that might tend however remotely to affect the Trade of the Mother Country.

p. 323

Your Proposition of a Repayment to Non Residents upon proper Certificates being produced that a Tax had been paid in the Mother Country or any of the Colonies does not obviate our Objection. A Person who has Goods Wares and Merchandizes here may be taxed in the Manner we have intimated without being able to produce such a Certificate and we can't but remark that altho' you seem to take it for granted in the Scheme of your Bill that the Acts of Parliam.^t are executed in England with the Strictness that your Bill would be if passed into a Law, in this Instance suppose the Acts of Parliament are not executed so strictly, for if you thought they were, you would be of Opinion that these Words of the Act of Parliament " Be it Enacted that every Person having any Estate in ready Mony, or in any Debt whatsoever owing to them within Great Britain or without, or having any Goods Wares Merchandizes or other Chattels, or personal Estate whatsoever within Great Britain or without " would be sufficient to shew that Persons living in Great Britain are taxed there for their Credit and personal Estate here.

We have not proposed a Tax upon Mechanics, nor do we desire that it should take Place, We have said that such Officers as have not greater Incomes than Mechanics ought no more to be taxed than Mechanics. those Officers would be taxed with others for all their real and personal Estates and this we thought and still think would be sufficient

As you assign no other Reason for insisting upon the Tax upon Officers and the Clergy than that it has been imposed in England, we hope you'll not any longer insist to carry it into Execution further than we are willing to admit—If by your Assertion that they have been taxed in the same Manner in the Land tax Acts, you mean that they have been included in some Land tax Acts we admit it, and so have many others whom you have not included, but if you mean that all Officers and the Clergy of England have been taxed always

p. 324