

created since *, and perhaps it would be no difficult Matter to prove that the People have decreased.

But whatever the People of Great-Britain may think on this Occasion, I hope the People of these Colonies will unanimously join in this Sentiment, that the late Act of Parliament is injurious to their Liberty, and that this Sentiment will unite them in a firm Opposition to it, in the same Manner as the Dread of the Stamp-Act did.

Some Persons may imagine the Sums to be raised by it, are but small, and therefore may be inclined to acquiesce under it. A Conduct more dangerous to Freedom, as before has been observed, can never be adopted. Nothing is wanted at home but a PRECEDENT, the Force of which shall be established, by the tacit Submission of the Colonies. With what Zeal was the Statute erecting the Post-Office, and another relating to the Recovery of Debts in America, urged and tortured, as Precedents in Support of the Stamp-Act, tho' wholly inapplicable. If the Parliament succeeds in this Attempt, other Statutes will impose other Duties. Instead of taxing ourselves, as we have been accustomed to do, from the first Settlement of these Provinces, all our usual Taxes will be converted into Parliamentary Taxes on our Importations; and thus the Parliament will levy upon us such Sums of Money as they chuse to take, without any other Limitation, than their Pleasure.

We know how much Labour and Care have been bestowed by these Colonies, in laying Taxes in such a Manner, that they should be most easy to the People, by being laid on the proper Articles; most equal, by being proportioned to every Man's Circumstances; and cheap, by the Method directed for collecting them.

But Parliamentary Taxes will be laid on us, without any Consideration, whether there is any easier Mode. The only Point regarded will be, the Certainty of levying the Taxes, and not the Convenience of the People on whom they are to be levied; and therefore all Statutes on this Head will be such as will be most likely, according to the favourite Phrase, "to execute themselves."

Taxes in every free State have been, and ought to be, as exactly proportioned as is possible to the Abilities of those who are to pay them. They cannot otherwise be just. Even a Hottentot would comprehend the Unreasonableness of making a poor Man pay as much for "defending" the Property of a rich Man, as the rich Man pays himself.

Let any Person look into the late Act of Parliament, and he will immediately perceive, that the immense Estates of Lord Fairfax, Lord Baltimore, and our Proprietaries, which are amongst his Majesty's other "DOMINIONS" to be "defended, protected and secured" by the Act, will not pay a single Farthing for the Duties thereby imposed, except Lord Fairfax wants some of his Windows glazed. Lord Baltimore and our Proprietaries are quite secure, as they live in England.

I mention these particular Cases, as striking Instances how far the late Act is a Deviation from that Principle of Justice, which has so constantly distinguished our own Laws on this Continent, and ought to be regarded in all Laws.

The third Consideration with our continental Assemblies in laying Taxes, has been the Method of collecting them. This has been done by a few Officers, under the Inspection of the respective Assemblies, with moderate Allowances. No more was raised from the Subject, than was used for the intended Purposes. But, by the late Act, a Minister may appoint as many Officers as he pleases for collecting the Taxes; may assign them what Salaries he thinks "adequate;" and they are subject to no Inspection but his own.

* One of the reasons urged by that great and honest statesman, Sir William Temple, to Charles the Second, in his famous remonstrance, to dissuade him from aiming at arbitrary power, was, "that the king had few offices to bestow." Hume's Hist. of England.

"The wings of prerogative have been clipped, the influence of the crown is greater than ever it was in any period of our history. For, when we consider in how many boroughs the government has the votes at command; when we consider the vast body of persons employed in the collection of the revenue, in every part of the kingdom, the inconceivable number of placements, and candidates for places in the customs, in the excise, in the post-office, in the dockyards, in the ordnance, in the salt-office, in the stamps, in the navy and victualling-offices, and in a variety of other departments; when we consider again the extensive influence of the money corporations, subscription jobbers and contractors, the endless dependencies created by the obligations conferred on the bulk of the gentlemen families throughout the kingdom, who have relations preferred in our navy and numerous standing army; when, I say, we consider how wide, how binding a dependence on the crown is created by the above enumerated particulars, and the great, the enormous weight and influence which the crown derives from this extensive dependence upon its favour and power, any lord in waiting, any lord of the bed-chamber, any man may be appointed minister."

A doctrine to this effect, is said to have been the advice of L. H. Late News Paper.

+ "Here may be observed, that when any ancient law or custom of parliament is broken, and the crown possessed of a precedent, how difficult a thing it is to restore the subject again to his FORMER FREEDOM and SAFETY." 2d Coke's Int. p. 529.

"It is not always credible to foresee, when any maxim or fundamental law of the realm is altered, (as elsewhere hath been observed) what dangerous inconveniences do follow." 4th Coke's Int. p. 41.

1 Maryland and Pennsylvania have been engaged in the same disputes, in order to obtain an equal and just taxation of their Proprietors estates: But this late act of parliament does more for these Proprietors, than they themselves would venture to demand. It totally exempts them from taxation—tho' their vast estates are to be "secured" by the taxes of other people.

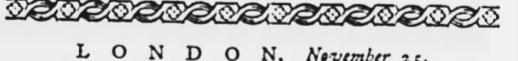
In short, if the late Act of Parliament takes Effect, these Colonies must dwindle down into "COMMON CORPORATIONS," as their Enemies, in the Debates concerning the Repeal of the Stamp-Act, strenuously insisted they were; and it seems not improbable that some future Historian may thus record our Fall.

"The eighth Year of this Reign was distinguished by a very memorable Event, the American Colonies then submitting, for the FIRST Time, to be taxed by the British Parliament. An Attempt of this Kind had been made about two Years before, but was defeated by the vigorous Exertions of the several Provinces, in Defence of their Liberties. Their Behaviour on that Occasion rendered their Name very celebrated for a short Time all over Europe; all States being extremely attentive to a Dispute between Great-Britain, and so considerable a Part of her Dominions. For as she was thought to be grown too powerful, by the successful Conclusion of the late War she had been engaged in, it was hoped by many, that, as it had happened before to other Kingdoms, civil Discords would afford Opportunities of revenging all the Injuries supposed to be received from her. However, the Cause of Dissension was removed, by a Repeal of the Statute that had given Offence. This Affair rendered the SUBMISSIVE CONDUCT of the Colonies so soon after, the more extraordinary; there being no Difference between the Mode of Taxation which they opposed, and that to which they submitted, but this, that by the first, they were to be continually reminded that they were taxed, by certain Marks stamped on every Piece of Paper or Parchment they used. The Authors of that Statute triumphed greatly on this Conduct of the Colonies, and insisted, that if the People of Great-Britain had persisted in enforcing it, the Americans would have been, in a few Months, so fatigued with the Efforts of Patroism, that they would quickly have yielded Obedience.

"Certain it is, that tho' they had before their Eyes so many illustrious Examples in their Mother Country, of the constant Success attending Firmness and Perseverance, in Opposition to dangerous Encroachments on Liberty, yet they quietly gave up a Point of the LAST IMPORTANCE. From thence the Decline of their Freedom began, and its Decay was extremely rapid; for as Money was always raised upon them by the Parliament, their Assemblies grew immediately useless, and in a short Time contemptible: And in less than One Hundred Years, the People sunk down into that Tameness and Supineness of Spirit, by which they still continue to be distinguished."

Et Majores vestros & Posteram cogitate.
Remember your Ancestors and your Posterity.

A FARMER.



L O N D O N, November 25.

LETTERS from Dublin mention, that an Entertainment was given, on Account of the Marquis of Kildare, on the 19th Instant, at the Rotunda in the New Gardens there, of which the following is the Bill of Fare, viz.

- 100 Rounds of Beef: 100 Neats Tongues: 1000 Sheep ditto: 100 baked Pies: 100 Surlions of Beef: 100 Geese roasted: 100 Turkeys ditto: 100 Ducks ditto: 100 Pullets ditto: 100 Wild Fowl: 1000 French Loaves: 2000 large Prints of Butter: 3000 Cups and Saucers: 100 Weight of Gloucester Cheese: Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate, in Abundance: 2000 Saffron Cakes: 4000 plain ditto: 50 Hams: 2500 Bottles of Wine: and a most splendid and large Pyramid of Sweet-meats in the Middle of the Desert in the Center of the Room; likewise a great Number of Stands of Jelly, and a curious Fountain playing; handsomely ornamented with Ivy, &c. Such an elegant, grand, and plentiful Morning Entertainment was never seen in that Kingdom, nor perhaps in Europe; beside a vast Profusion of the best Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate, and buttered White Wine, served from Silver Tea-Kitchens lying upon all the Tables in the Center of that Room; on long Tables all round the said Room; and in the Cells, within the Walls, were Pieces of roast Beef, Fowls, Pies, &c. the best in their Kinds, with a great Variety of Wines; a Bottle of one kind or other to every Plate.

Dec. 7. The Citizens of Geneva seem not to depart in the least from the Firmness which they have hitherto maintained. In a Paper lately signed by them, they persist in all their Claims and Demands, resolving to be buried under the Ruins of their Country, rather than submit to Conditions which they think repugnant to the Spirit of their constitutional Laws.

Some Friends of Voltaire, at Paris, have received Copies of a Dissertation which he has wrote on the Dissensions of Poland, wherein he attempts to prove that the Catholic Party have been always in the Wrong, and that the Empress of Russia will acquire immortal Glory by taking under her Protection the just Cause of the Greeks and Dissidents.

A N N A P O L I S, February 25.

T O T H E P R I N T E R S .

A Bystander may affect Disinterestedness, and yet be very deeply concern'd in the Issue of the Game, however, if he does not attempt to pick any one's Pocket, by soul Tricks, the greatest Objection to his Dissimulation, is the Folly of it, when not concealed. If a Bystander is suspected of having a Bet upon the Game, let him be ever so great a Sage in the Law thereof, he is not appeal'd to; and, if he presumes to interfere, he is kick'd out of the Room, especially if he is a notorious Sbarper.—"Who knows but he is a Sage of the Law?"—Indeed I don't, for very grave Men sometimes play the Fool egregiously; and now and then, even a Parson

May, to mere Mortals, seem a Priest in Drink— But, I suspect others will dispute the Probability of his being a Lawyer, with whom false Quotations and confident Assertions, are as little likely to gain the Credit of legal Knowledge, as trifling Cavil is of Penetration, Petulance of Wit, a black Gown, with a vicious Conduct of Piety, or downright Plagiarism, the Praise of Candour or Invention. The Bystander's Examination of the Querist's State of the Case, may be taken as a

Specimen of his Acuteness. A Man of common Intellects would have understood the Word "given" in the Acceptation of sent or communicated, because required by the Context, and the Word will bear it.— If the Bystander had bestowed in reading the Disputa final Portion of the Time he has employ'd in the Study of the Law, or in other Pursuits more desirable, it would have occurred to him, that the Word give, is there used passim, in the above Sense; but, if he is a Sage of the Law, perhaps he will deny the Authority of the Book, because not usually cited in the Courts, and therefore it may not be amiss to remark, that the Absurdity he ridicules is his own. "A Letter of Advice in Favour of a Minister given to a Vestry," by the Bystander's Leave, is no Innovation either in Language or Sentiment, tho' it is something new, after substituting another Manner of Expression, to blame the Querist for the Impropriety of the Substitution. The Querist, I hope, was understood by the Sages of the Law, to mean what his Words properly signified, a Power intended to be conferred upon a Minister of entering or being admitted into a Benefice, and not to the Vestry, and not to multiply Priests upon the Parishioners, when the one they have is probably as much as they can bear.—The Hilarity, raised by an extraordinary Bumper, seems to have put the Bystander off his Guard, and that his fine Ridicule has lost all its Poignancy, by appearing on Paper, where a quick Utterance, to prevent Examination, and a loud Laugh, to hinder Reply, are wanting to make it pass.

"Sidesmen, otherwise Questmen, otherwise Vestry-men, are certain Persons, says he, chosen in each Parish, as Assistants (expressly so called in all the Law Books) to the Churchwardens." Indeed! Are Sidesmen, Questmen, and Vestrymen, only different Terms used to express the same Person? What, in the Law Books? Well affirmed. Who now will doubt the Bystander's being a Sage in the Law? If he has really read all the Books of the Law, and remembers all he has read, which his Affirmation implies, who but must allow him to be a Sage of the first Head? I dare not contradict this Gentleman, when he is so positive, because it would impose a Contumely too coarse, and shall therefore suppose Montagne's Observation to be true, that "one Man may read in a Book what another can't find there;" for I have turn'd to several Law Books on this Occasion, and can find nothing in them to countenance the Bystander's Assertion. A full Discussion of this Subject would carry me beyond the Limits of your Paper; and for that Reason, and because I believe the Office of a Vestryman in this Province, is generally pretty well understood, I must be content with giving a short Account of Sidesmen or Questmen, Officers not used here, from Burn, Vol. I. 283. and Wood, 95.—In the ancient episcopal Synods, the Bishops were wont to summon certain Persons out of each Parish, to give Information of the Disorders of the Clergy and the People.—They were to present all Hereticks, and other irregular Persons.—In Process of Time, they became standing Officers in several Places, in great Cities and large Parishes, and were called Synodsmen, and, by Corruption, Sidesmen or Questmen, from their Enquiry concerning Offences. They are chosen by the Minister and Parishioners, if they can agree, otherwise to be appointed by the Ordinary; and, for the most Part, the whole Office is now devolved upon the Churchwardens. They take an Oath to be assiduous to the Churchwardens, in the Execution of their Office, so far as by Law they are bound.— There needs not further Proof that Sidesmen or Questmen, are very different from Vestrymen, and that their Duty has been very little explain'd by the Bystander.

All the Vestries in the Province are select, as they are in some Places in England by Prescription or immemorial Usage. Where there is no such Usage, the Vestries are in England general, i. e.—all the Parishioners, paying the Church-Rates, and Out-Dwellers, occupying Lands in the Parish, are Vestrymen. The Qualification and Duty of our Vestries are pointed out by our Laws, and they have no more to do with the Canon Law, proprio vigore, than the Papal Authority, from which no inconsiderable Part of it was derived.— In Case of a Vacancy, says the Bystander, a Vestry may desire or petition the Ordinary to appoint a Minister of a neighbouring Parish to officiate. The Act of Assembly is almost in every one's Hands, and it was as little worth while to misquote it, as it would be minutely, to shew the Unfairness of the Quotation. The Word—Petition—is not in the Act. The Words of the Act, are, "Desire or Agreement of the Vestry" of the said adjacent (not neighbouring) Parish, and "Consent of the Vestries, where he (the Minister) resides, and Appointment of the Ordinary." The Act is express, that no Minister shall hold two Parishes, unless with the Concurrence of those requisite Circumstances. The Amount of the Bystander's Reasoning is, that the Law requires three Things to be done, but only one of them is done, therefore all that the Law requires has been done.—What a Paralogism!—A disinterested Man, after a sober Dish of Tea, must have a very peculiar Cast of Thinking to imagine it any Hardship, that, when a Law requires the Concurrence of the Two Vestries as well as of the Ordinary, in a Business, affecting all the Parties, the Ordinary alone cannot bind the rest at all Events.

If the Churches here are donative, there can be no Induction, and Plenarities arise merely from the Donor's Appointment. The very Meaning of a Donative is, that it is a free Gift, and none of the Ceremonies of Presentation, Admission, Induction or Induction relate to it.—The Parson derives his Benefice altogether from the Patron's Donation or Appointment, and being once given, the Parson's Right is as complete, as after Induction or Induction in the Case of preferentive Livings, and there can be no Appointment to a Donative for Years, or at Will only. 1. Burn. 532.—Donatives have generally an Exemption from Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, but the Patron may present if he pleases. Besides the Duty incumbent upon Vestries, mentioned by the Bystander, there is another and a very important one, which I beg Leave to add—that of supporting the Rights of the Parish against Intruders and Trespasers. Their Oath requires it of them. When there is a regular Plenarty, the Minister is undoubtedly intitled to the whole 30 per Poll; but should a Minister be preferred from one Parish to another, there must be a Vacancy

in the former, unless...
respective Vestries of adjacent Parishes...
And, as the Vestry have no more Poll than to the Minister...
Parish, the Minister has Poll than to the Shirks, the Parishioners, whether great or small...
Patrons, and...
The Accusation is heavy...
Character, the Bystander...
The Verbum Sacrum...
Vestries are but Vestries...
Merit of being true; but...
apart this Man is to run...
cannot get one Word of...
Times, (tho' not often)...
furnished with it. The U...
of the Order of the Vest...
Delicacy, and humane R...
ence, but as the Paper...
with'd he would extend...
steriff, for the same Use...
in a certain Parish, upo...
with some of his...
we may judge from a la...
calculated for the Use of...
When a Man, says...
of acting repugnant...
"Sage of the Law;"...
acquainted with some Pa...
ing the whole? Suppo...
should remonstrate to h...
added to Lying. D...
Revenge, and Unchar...
Precepts of Religion,...
might not the Parson, in...
taining, say, "to know...
Dignity, and if you thi...
more of Religion than...
your Negroes, for no l...
PARSON?—Whether the...
than the Bystander's Ho...
ther the Horse or his N...
Christian Spirit. We ar...
Horse was Consul of R...
Writer observes, the Offi...
the Imperial Diadem on his...
of this Observation migh...
a particular Case, I mu...
certain Parish to determi...
Advice to the Minister,...
will take some Time to...
of their Duty; for bad...
at once. It might now...
rable Insult, for a Parson...
and cloth, to treat their...
sent. Respect, where no...
vour, is certainly due to...
from the rest of the Vestry...
that it is equally due from...
begin to suspect, that if...
at least a Practitioner of...
ing a Trap for a Fee, at...
Head. Should the Minis...
treat the Gentlemen of th...
Insolence, they would c...
kick him out of Doors, w...
real and intrinsic Dignity...
"But hear him! hear...
Tiptley! The Man surely...
imagined he had just obt...
Quibble, and disconcerte...
Laugh. I shall not dispute...
a Sage of the Law, or a l...
is as much the one as the...
seems to have forgot, th...
have been exercis'd to d...
Observations to evince t...
tions, and the Solidity...
therefore happen'd, that...
his Wit all borrow'd...
Appearance of being tal...
and the Observations up...
cludes his Piece, are stole...
Merit consists in the Fai...
tho' it is somewhat tarn...
them for his own.—As...
have already observed, I...
find a Syllable, on turni...
page, quoted Co. 1 Inst. 13...
ried me to the Chapter o...
to turn to Co. 1 Inst. 431...
at the Book's sleeping at 35...
plied myself to Littleton...
and the Parson and his Gle...
that a Parson has any othe...
a Layman for his Land...
Vi Laica Removenda, open...
issue out of Chancery; bu...
the Bishop, nor can I find...
brought up before the Cha...
has a Power to punish th...
The Passim Reference to C...
calculated as well for the...
own Convenience. Why...
Eyes, by reading Figures;...
can't find, or himself be at...
down? It is the Business...
understand the Law, whic...
Conduct, and Coke's Infl...
in the small Compa's of Th...
only, the Man, who has th...
very idle Fellow, or a very...
If Lord Coke has declar'd...
Bystander says) "where...
"Ownership or Property,"...
"and, by the common La...
"to any other, in what N...
I have not yet been able...
supporting it to be as quote...
clude, that the Bystander's...
Reader, the most amazing...
tion, is in one of his Not...
entirely, for indeed, in thi