

nies, and no Part of it to the Security of *Great-Britain*, or to the Views of extending her Dominions by Conquest, if all the Successes of the War have been atchieved by the national Arms of *Great-Britain* ALONE, without any Assistance, or Co-operation of the Plantations, still ought not the Claim against the Colonies in Equity, to be mitigated upon Reflection of the Advantages derived from Them, and of their Contribution to the national Revenue for a long Course of Years, during which, their Protection put the *British* Nation to very little, if any particular Expence?

If moreover, *Great-Britain* hath an equitable Claim to the Contribution of the Colonies, it ought to be proportioned to their Circumstances, and They might, surely, be indulged with discharging it in the most easy, and satisfactory Manner to Themselves. If Ways and Means convenient, and conciliating would produce their Contribution, as well as oppressive and disgusting Exactions, it is neither consistent with Humanity or Policy, to pursue the latter—A Power may even exist without an actual Exercise of it, and it indicates as little good Sense as good Nature to exercise it, only that the Subjects of it may feel the Rod that Rules Them. Moderation may be observed, and Equity maintained, at the same Time that Superiority is asserted, and Authority vindicated, whatever the Apprehensions of Pusillanimity, or the Insolence of Usurpation may suggest.

What is the annual Sum expected from the Colonies—what Proportion from each—how far do their Abilities extend? These Matters have been, without doubt, precisely ascertained, or easily may be, at a Time “ when the real, the substantial, the commercial Interests of *Great-Britain*, are preferred to every other Consideration, and it is so well known, that the Trade whence it's greatest Wealth is derived, and upon which it's maritime Power is principally founded, depends upon a wise and proper Use of the Colonies,” which implies, at least, such an Understanding of their Circumstances, as must render it extremely easy, to form a reasonable Estimate of their comparative Wealth, and the Extent of their Abilities. The proportion of each Colony, being so easily ascertainable at this Period of *uncommon* Knowledge of their Affairs, why has the Course observed by former Ministers, when Supplies have been expected from *America*, been neglected by the *present*? Why was there not the usual Requisition communicated to the Provincial Assemblies, instead of exacting an uncertain and unequal Sum from each Colony, by a Law abruptly passed, without any previous Default of those who are affected by it?—I shall not call it a Law repugnant to their Genius, cancelling their Charters, infringing the most valuable Rights and Privileges of *British* Subjects, derogatory from the Faith and