

Supposing the clear annual Rents of the Lands in North-
America, (unrestrain'd by Acts of Parliament) wou'd amount to } £. 2,500,000

It appears then, that the whole Tax is upwards of 65 per Cent; and if, therefore, the artificial Value of One Hundred Pounds Worth of *British* Manufacture, (Cloth for Instance) is, according to the above Computation, 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* there was, before the *Stamp-Act*, a Tax paid by the *North-Americans*, near double of that which is paid by the Inhabitants of *England*. If the above Sum of 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* is too low, and ought to be increased, then the Tax on *North-America*, on the Article of Manufactures imported from *Britain*, must also be increased.

It shou'd seem that the Maxim of every Tax upon Labour falling ultimately upon the Consumer of its Product, cannot be strictly applied to the Product of the *North-American* Colonies. For, as they are obliged to send their Commodities to some Port in the *British* Dominions, or (where Indulgence is granted to send some of them to other Places) deprived in great Measure of the Benefit of Returns, they are by this Means subjected to dead Freight; and moreover, being confin'd in their Consumption to a particular Manufacture, and the Commodities they export, being chiefly raw Materials, they have not the Means generally in the Power of other People, by raising the Price of their Labour, to throw their Burthens upon others; but are, for the most Part, obliged, both in their Exports and Imports, to submit to an arbitrary Determination of their Value, though even below first Cost.

The sanguine Genius of one of the *Anti-American* Writers, brings to my Mind the Fable of the Boy and the Hen that laid *Golden Eggs*. He is not content to wait for the Increase of the *Public Revenue*, by that gradual Process and Circulation of Property, which an Attention to the commercial Interests of the Nation hath establish'd, but is at once for tearing away the Embryo, which, in due Time, might be matur'd into Fullness of Size and Vigour; without ever reflecting, that when the Hen is destroy'd by his Violence, there will be no more *GOLDEN EGGS*.—The following Passage justifies this Observation—

“ If we have from the Colonies their ALL already, we only have it (says he) by Trade, and not by Taxes; and surely it is not the same Thing, whether the Wealth be brought into the Public Coffers by Taxes, or coming in by Trade, flows into the Pockets of Individuals, and, by
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