

them from the necessary Expence w^{ch} many of them have hitherto always borne in Guarding their Frontiers against the Savage Indians.

6^{thly} Because not only the Right but the Expediency & necessity of the Supreme Legislature's exerting its authority to lay a General Tax on Our American Colonies whenever the wants of the Publick make it fitting & reasonable that all the Provinces should contribute in a proper Proportion to the Defence of the whole Appears to us undeniable from these Considerations, First, That every Province being separate & independent on the others, and having no common Council impowered by the Constitution of the Colonies to act for all, or bind all, such a Tax cannot regularly or without infinite difficulty be Imposed upon them at any time, for their immediate Defence & Protection by their own Provincial Assemblies, but requires the Intervention and Superintending Power of the Parliam^t of Great Britain; Secondly, that in looking forwards to the possible Contingency of a New War, a Contingency perhaps not far remote, the prospect of the Burthens w^{ch} the Gentry & People of this Kingdom must then sustain in Addition to those w^{ch} now Lye so heavy upon them is so Melancholly & dreadful, that we cannot but feel it a most indispensable duty to ease them as much as is possible by a due & moderate Exertion of that great Right, w^{ch} the Constitution of this Realm has vested in the Parliament to Provide for the Safety of all, by a proportionable Charge upon all, equally & indifferently laid; we likewise Apprehend that a Partial Exemption of Our Colonies from any Exercise of this Right, by the British Legislature, would be thought so invidious & so unjust to the other Subjects of the Crown of Great Britain, as to Alienate the Hearts of these from their Country men residing in America to the great detriment of the latter, who have on so many occasions recēd & may again want Assistance from the generous Warmth of their Affections.

7^{thly} Because the Reason Assigned in the Public Resolutions of the Provincial Assemblies in the North American Colonies for their disobeying the Stamp Act (Viz) That they are not represented in the Parliam^t of Great Britain, extends to all other Laws of what nature soever, w^{ch} that Parliament has enacted, or shall enact to bind them in time to come, and must (if Admitted) Set them absolutely free from any obedience to the Power of the British Legislature. We likewise observe, that in a Letter to M^r Secretary Conway dated 12th Oct^r 1765 the Commander in Chief of his Maty's fforces in North America has declared his opinion, "That the Question is not of the Inexpediency of the Stamp Act or of the Inability of the Colonies to Pay the Tax but that it is uncon-