

stitutional & contrary to their Rights, supporting the Independancy of the Provinces, & not Subject to the Legislative Power of Great Britain." It is moreover Affirm'd in a Letter to M^r Secretary Conway Dated 7th Nov^r " That the People in General are averse to Taxes of any kind & that the Merch^{ts} in that place think they have a Right to every Freedom of Trade w^{ch} the Subjects of Great Britain now enjoy." This opinion of theirs Strikes directly at the Act of Navigation & o^r Subsequent Laws w^h from time to time, have been on the wise Policy of that Act, and should they ever be encouraged to procure for themselves that absolute Freedom of Trade w^{ch} they appear to desire, Our Plantations would become, not only of no benefit, but in the highest Degree prejudicial to the Commerce & Welfare of their Mother Country, nor is it easy to conceive a greater Encouragem^t than the repealing a Law opposed by them on such Principles, & with so much contempt, of the Sovereignty of the British Legislature.

8^{thly} Because the Appearance of Weakness & Timidity in the Governm^t & Parliam^t of this Kingdom, w^{ch} a concession of this Nature may too probably carry wth it, has a manifest Tendency to draw on further Insults, & by lessening the Respect of all his Majestys Subjects to the Dignity of his Crown & Authority of his Laws, throw the whole British Empire into a Miserable State of Confusion and Anarchy, wth which it seems by many Symptoms to be dangerously threatned, and this is the more to be feared as the Plea of our North American Colonies, that not being represented in the Parliam^t of Great Britain, they ought not to Pay Taxes, Imposed or Levied upon them, by the authority thereof may by the same reasoning be extended to all Persons in this Island who do not actually Vote for Members of Parliam^t Nor can we help apprehending, that the opinion of some Countenance being given to such Notions by the Legislature itself in consenting to this Bill for the Repeal of the Stamp Act may greatly promote the Contagion of a most dangerous Doctrine, destructive to all Governm^t w^{ch} has spread itself over all our North American Colonies, that the Obedience of the Subject is not due to the Law of the Realm further than he in his Private Judgm^t shall think it conformable to the Ideas he has formed of a free Constitution.

9^{thly} Because we think it no effectual Guard or Security against the Danger that the Parliam^t has declared in the Resolutions of both Houses pass'd during this Session, and now reduced into a Bill that such Notions are ill founded as men will always look more to Deeds than words, & may therefore incline to believe that the Insurrections in our Colonies excited by those Notions having so far Proved successfull as