

in all free States the Constitution is fixed, And as the Supreme Legislature derives its Power and Authority from the Constitution, it cannot overleap the bounds of it without destroying its own Foundation; That the Constitution ascertains and Limits both Sovereignty and Allegiance, and therefore His Majesty's American Subjects, who acknowledge themselves bound by the Ties of Allegiance, have an equitable Claim to full Enjoyment of the fundamental Rules of the British Constitution, That it is an essential unalterable Right in Nature, ingrafted into the British Constitution, as a fundamental Law, and ever held Sacred and irrevocable by the Subjects within the Realm, that what a Man has honestly acquired is absolutely his own, which he may freely give but cannot be taken from him without his Consent; That the American Subjects may, therefore, exclusive of any Consideration of Charter-Rights, with a decent Firmness adapted to the Character of Freemen, and Subjects, assert this natural Constitutional Right. It is moreover their humble Opinion, which they express with the greatest Deference to the Wisdom of Parliament, that the Acts made there, imposing Duties on the People of this Province, with the sole and express purpose of raising a Revenue, are Infringements of their natural Constitutional Rights, because, as they are not represented in the British Parliament, His Majesty's Commons in Britain by those Acts grant their Property without their Consent. This House further are of Opinion, that their Constituents, considering their local Circumstances, cannot by any Possibility be represented in the Parliament, and that it will forever be impracticable that they should equally be represented there, and consequently not at all, being separated by an Ocean of 1000 Leagues, and that His Majesty's Royal Predecessors for this Reason were graciously pleased to form a Subordinate Legislature here, that their Subjects might enjoy the unalienable Right of a Representation, and that, considering the utter Impracticability of their being fully and equally represented in Parliament, and the great expence that must unavoidably attend even a partial Representation there, This House thinks, that a Taxation of their Constituents even without their Consent, grievous as it is, would be preferable to any Representation that could be admitted for them there.

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Upon these Principles, and also considering that were the Right in the Parliament ever so clear, yet for obvious Reasons it would be beyond the Rules of Equity, that their Constituents should be taxed on the Manufactures of Great Britain here, in Addition to the Duties they pay for them in England, and other Advantages arising to Great Britain from the Acts of Trade; This House have preferred an humble Dutiful and