

We have also the Misfortune to find, that all the Penalties and Forfeitures mentioned in the Stamp Act, and in divers late Acts of Trade extending to the Plantations, are, at the Election of the Informer, Recoverable in any Court of Admiralty in America. This, as the newly erected Court of Admiralty has a general Jurisdiction over all British America, renders his Majesty's Subjects in these Colonies, liable to be carried, at an immense Expence, from one End of the Continent, to the other.

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It gives us also great Pain, to see a manifest Distinction made therein, between the Subjects of our Mother Country, and those in the Colonies, in that the like Penalties and Forfeitures recoverable there only in his Majesty's Courts of Record are made cognizable here by a Court of Admiralty: By these Means we seem to be, in Effect, unhappily deprived of Two Privileges essential to Freedom, and which all Englishmen have ever considered as their best Birth-rights, that of being free from all Taxes but such as they have consented to in Person, or by their Representatives, and of Trial by their Peers.

Your Petitioners further shew, That the remote Situation, and other Circumstances of the Colonies, render it impracticable that they should be Represented, but in their respective subordinate Legislature; and they humbly conceive, that the Parliament, adhering strictly to the Principles of the Constitution, have never hitherto Tax'd any, but those who were actually therein Represented; for this Reason, we humbly apprehend, they never have Tax'd Ireland, or any other of the Subjects without the Realm.

But were it ever so clear, that the Colonies might in Law, be reasonably deem'd to be Represented in the Honourable House of Commons, yet we conceive, that very good Reasons, from Inconvenience, from the Principles of true Policy, and from the Spirit of the British Constitution, may be adduced to shew, that it would be for the real Interest of Great-Britain, as well as her Colonies, that the late Regulations should be rescinded, and the several Acts of Parliament imposing Duties and Taxes on the Colonies, and extending the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Admiralty here, beyond their ancient Limits, should be Repeal'd.

We shall not Attempt a minute detail of all the Reasons which the Wisdom of the Honourable House may suggest, on this Occasion, but would humbly submit the following Particulars to their Consideration.

That Money is already become very scarce in these Colonies, and is still decreasing by the necessary Exportation of Specie from the Continent, for the Discharge of our Debts to British Merchants.

That an immensely heavy Debt is yet due from the Colonies for British Manufactures, and that they are still heavily burthen'd with