

this Proclamation ought to be regarded with Abhorrence; for who are a free People? Not *those* over whom Government is reasonably and equitably exercised, but *those* who live under a Government so constitutionally checked and controuled that proper Provision is made against its being *otherwise exercised*. This Act of Power is founded on the Destruction of this constitutional Security. If Prerogative may rightfully regulate the fees agreeable to the late Inspection Law, it has a *Right* to fix any other Quantums; if it has a *Right* to regulate to one *Penny*, it has a *Right* to regulate to a Million; for where does its *Right* stop? At any given Point? To attempt to limit it's *Right*, after granting it to exist at all, is as contrary to Reason, as granting it to exist at all is contrary to Justice; if it has any *Right* to tax Us, then whether our own Money shall continue in our own Pockets, or not, depends no longer on Us, but on the Prerogative; there is nothing we can call our own; and in the Words of a Light and Ornament of the present Age, my Position is this. I repeat it again. I will maintain it to my last Hours Taxation and Representation are inseparable. This Position is founded on the Laws of Nature; it is more it is itself an eternal Law of Nature; for whatever is a Man's own, is absolutely his own; no Man hath a *Right* to take it from him without his Consent, either expressed by himself or his Representative; whoever *attempts* to do it attempts an *Injury*; whoever *does* it, commits a *Robbery*. He throws down the Distinction between Liberty and Slavery. The Forefathers of the Americans did not leave their native Country, and subject themselves to every Danger and Distress, to be reduced to a State of Slavery. They did not give up their Rights; for should the *present Power* continue, there is nothing which they can call their own: Or in the Words of M.^r Locke, "*What Property have they in that which another may by Right take when he pleases, to himself?*"

L. H. J.
Liber No. 54
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p. 272

When we reflect, Sir, that you came to this Government with every Motive to wish the Prosperity of the Province; when we reflect, that you have omitted no Opportunity of declaring an Attachment to the Constitution, and a Regard for the Rights and Liberties of the Inhabitants; and that you have repeatedly expressed a Willingness to concur, in Regulations tending to advance this Country, we are desirous of indulging the fond Hope that you have not the least Inclination to unite the *Legislative* and *Executive* Authorities, "the Will to ordain and the Power to enforce it, in the *same Person*, as *thereby* a Tyranny would be established"; and though your Excellency, with the Advice of his Lordship's Council of State, issued the Proclamation and also passed the Instrument under the Great Seal establishing the fees in the Land Office, after having put on your Guard by the late Lower House, who had strongly objected against a Continuance of the late Regulation of fees, not only be-