

ments, why did they not bring them down when they receiv'd the last Message, and especially when they had been so repeatedly Advertis'd of the Court's Resolution to break up that Day? Did they not behave with Indecency, after declaring upon the first Message to them, that they would be down in Half an Hour and the Court's waiting an Hour, to send the abrupt Answer to the last Message by the Clerk "that they had not done and did not know when they should"? If they had had any particular Business before them, which could make it necessary for the Court to dispense with their Resolution, so often repeated, would it not have been proper and decent to have come down and acquainted the Court therewith? If they intended to present a Remonstrance to the Court and wanted some Time for that Purpose, why did they not give us an Intimation of their Design? If the Remonstrance was actually prepar'd before the Court broke up, why was it not presented, and if it was done afterwards, what Right had these Men to call themselves a Grand Jury?

Altho' we are fully convinc'd that the Persons who compos'd the late Grand Jury were misled by the Influence of an ill Adviser; yet as they have taken upon themselves to father a Production, fill'd with Falsehoods and Misrepresentations injurious to our Characters, it became necessary in our Vindication, to charge them in general as the Authors of the Injury. The Consideration of their having acted under a Deception, may palliate, but cannot justify their Conduct; for it was incumbent upon them to have examin'd into the Facts, and to have been well assur'd of the Truth of every Allegation, instead of adopting them upon the mere Authority of any Man's Assertion. It is undoubtedly, the Province of the Grand Jury to remonstrate against every Abuse of Power in the Corporation, and as we pretend to no Exemption from Error, and it is both our Duty and Inclination to execute the Laws with the strictest Regard to the Good of the People, our Ears will ever be open to their just and decent Remonstrances, whenever we may be so unfortunate as to deviate in any Instance from the End of our Institution. We flatter ourselves, that upon a candid dispassionate Survey of our Conduct, we shall not appear to have been wantonly Oppressive, regardless of our Duty, partial in the Administration of Justice, Embezzlers of the public Money, or conniving at it in others. These are the decent Imputations, contain'd in the Remonstrance, some of them strongly insinuated, and others expressly charg'd. If we are guilty, we desire not to be screen'd from the most public Censure, but if upon Examination it shall be found we are falsely accus'd, an open ingenuous Confession of their Error, as well as a full Detection of the Arts by which our Accusers have been misled into this indecent Attack upon our Characters, may well be expected, as the Former will be but a reasonable Satisfaction to the injur'd, and the Latter will furnish the best Apology for their own Conduct.

There has lately appeared in London, the Writings of an Author, who signs himself PACIFICUS: One of his Performances, by way of Sample, we give our Readers (just as it was Publish'd in a late Northern Paper) by which they may judge of the Rest. This sordid Scribbler, whoever he is, shows as little Regard to Truth as to Good Manners, and has endeavour'd to vilify a great Number of Men much better than Himself; and will doubtless have the Curse of every American, or Friend to America, who Reads his paltry Performances. This lying Author first breaks out with observing, "That, as the original Charters to the first Settlers contain a Submission to a constitutional Right of taxing the Colonies, the Americans cannot now, upon any rational Principle, justify an Opposition to the late Laws imposing Taxes upon their Deeds, Law Proceedings, and other Writings;" observing at the same Time, "it would be dangerous and disgraceful to admit Representatives from hence, into the House of Commons," and adds, "there is not the least Cause to expect Resistance any where, except in Virginia and New-England."—He then proceeds,

OUR numerous and rich Islands give no Evidences of an ungovernable Temper; nor have the ceded Provinces afforded us any Cause to suspect their Loyalty. Georgia, the two Carolinas, and Maryland, are quiet:—(a Mistake.)—As are also the two Jerseys,—(worse again,)—Nova-Scotia, and Newfound-

land,—(doubted.)—As to New-York, they are too honest and industrious a People to encourage Insurrections:—(thank you Meijster for this.) Some of the lowest of the Inhabitants of that Colony are, as they are every where, somewhat inclined to disorderly Practices:—(what a Conjurer!)—But Irregularities of the atrocious Nature of Insurrections, will find no Encouragement in that Province, either among the middling Planters, or from Persons in higher Stations:—(bless us!—thank you Meijster again!)—They are too regular Liveries, too pious and too industrious, to entertain Sentiments of that black Dye:—(the Lord love US! but God forgive YOU.)—Nor need we be jealous of Pennsylvania,—(intend you need!)—where industrious Propensities are better rewarded by bountiful Nature than in New-York.

The Virginians indeed are immersed in Libertinism; and the New-Englanders swell with the stiff Tenets of Independency. The latter are a crabbed Race, not very unlike their Half Brothers, the Indians, for unsocial Principles, and an unrelenting Cruelty. Their sanguinary Laws against that harmless Sect the Quakers, are a full Proof of their unmerciful Dispositions.

But shall Britain yield up her Birth Rights, for the sake of pleasing the Whim of Virginians, whose emaciated Bodies and pale Faces, prove at first Sight the Degeneracy of their Morals, and the consumptive State of their natural Constitutions? These yellow Shadows of Men are by no Means fit for a Conflict with our Troops: Nor will ever such romantic Adventures of Chivalry enter into their trembling Hearts. Such Combatants would be far fitter for an Engagement with our Covent Garden Ladies, than with our embattled Squadrons. So soon as these doughty Champions found Matters growing serious, they might probably then look for Caverns where they could hide their shaking Limbs amongst those extensive Woods which they are too lazy or too feeble to cut down; but they would never think of marching up in the View of our pointed Cannon, or bear to look at the martial Appearance of our advancing Armies. When no Danger is near, they may probably Vapour in their Provincial Assemblies; but I am certain, that in Virginia that Proverb will always maintain its Truth, *That empty Barrels make most Noise when touched even with a Tap of our Knuckle.* He must be very tender of human Blood indeed, who can dread the Consequences of a League between Virginia and New-England against Great-Britain. The Virginians, to give them their due, are too wise to be caught in such a Mouse Trap. In Case an Engagement offered, before the first Onset they would get off as fast as they could from the intended Field of Battle, leaving the Pumpkin Gentry whom they hold in most sovereign Contempt, to fight it out as they might, and then Snigger at the Trick they had played the Non Cons, who are also, by the Bye, too cautious to trust such Libertines in an Affair of too great Moment.

As for the New-Englanders, I have given their Characters already. They are the Joke of America. I cannot reasonably imagine that such a Hatred and four tempered Province can find any Allies. Their Valour arising from the Stems of their poisonous Rum, will quickly evaporate in sudden Tumults; which, like April Showers, will be almost as soon over as begun. They are not so distracted as to spend much of their Blood in so idle a Cause; in which indeed no Man, above the Degree of an Ideot, would risk his Life, Property, and all that he holds dear in this World. He must have little Sense, who would become liable to be treated as a Rebel for the sake of shunning Payment of a Shilling or Eighteen Pence for a Sheet of stamped Paper. Our Colonies must be the veriest Beggars in the World, if such inconsiderable Duties appear to be intolerable Burthens in their Eyes: And if they are in such a State of Poverty, where can they find Cannon, Ammunition, and all the other Implements of War, together with MONEY, the Sinews of Mars.—It is impossible.

The Idea of a Rebellion in America, in Consequence of such an unimportant Subject of Dispute, is merely Chimerical. It is a silly Utopian Fancy, which never can be midwived into Existence; a Bugbear that can frighten none but Persons entirely ignorant of American Affairs. And since there are such great Numbers who harbour mistaken Notions of our Plantations, I have thus copiously laid the whole Affair before the Public, that every Subject of Britain may hereafter be entirely easy as to that Point, and cheerfully concur with the Legislature in maintaining our national

Dignity in this Dispute, without making any Concessions to the Libertines of Virginia, or the Puritans of New-England.

What Subject of this great Republic, in his right Senses, would agree that our Constitution, so vigorous and so well proportioned, should be broke up at the Pleasure of such Opponents, by the Introduction of Representatives from Virginia or New-England in our House of Commons? Would our Morals be safe under Virginian Legislatures, or would our Church be in no Danger from Purkin Senators? Shall we live to see the Spaw of our Transports occupy the highest Seats in our Common Wealth? Degenerate Britons! how can ye entertain the humiliating Thought! Remember that Mr. Pitt, and all our real Patriots, have approved of this Tax. After mentioning these great Names, all further Arguments ought to cease. So here I drop my Pen, (for the Goodness of your Hearts, 'twould have been no great Concern had your Head dropt instead of your Pen!) and leave the Disapprovers of this Law to Blush for their untim'd Disapprobation.

PACIFICUS

To the PRINTERS of the LONDON CHRONICLE.

PACIFICUS has obliged the Public with a long Letter in the Gazetteer of the 7th of November, relating to our American Colonies, in which he seems to be unreasonably angry with Rationalis.—If you know any Friends this good Man has in the World, I wish you would persuade them to give their kind Advice to drop the Subject, as he appears not to understand either the Foundation or End of Government, the Temper of Mankind, the Interests of these Kingdoms or the original Contracts upon which our Brethren and fellow Subjects first engaged to make Settlements in America. For until he is provided with some Knowledge of this Kind, he will only expose himself by writing about and about the Things; which can never serve any good Purpose, if he has had an Object in View.

If Pacificus has any Inclination to travel for Experience, I would advise him to go and see in North America before he writes again; and then I am much mistaken if his next Letter will not tell us another Story. I have not met with that Man yet, who tho' ever so well inclined to promote the Oppression of Others, could recommend or decently submit to Oppression when it fell upon himself.

A MONITOR.

L O N D O N, December 24.

WE hear that all the Letters, Petitions, Memorials, &c. transmitted from the American Colonies to the Ministry, are now Printed by high Authority, in Order to be laid before an August Assembly.

The last Letters from Cadiz say, that the Spaniards are extremely busy in transporting Ammunition and all Kinds of Warlike Stores, to their Settlements in America. Fifteen Hundred Muskets, with the like Number of Swords, and One Thousand Five Hundred Quintals of Powder were lately sent to Carthagena, by the Castle Ship of War. A great Number of Pistols are also expected at Cadiz, destined likewise for their American Colonies.

Extract of a Letter from Portugal.

"I find that the Change in the Ministry has taken Place, and that neither Mr. Pitt nor Lord Temple are come in; but even if they were, I should have but little Hopes of any Redress to our Grievances, as Merchants Complaints, though ever so well founded, are beneath the Notice of such great Men, who only think of enriching themselves and Friends; they will let Things run to such a Length, that the Trade will be irretrievably lost to all Englishmen."

B O S T O N, February 17.

It is said the People at Home approve of the Proceedings of the Americans respecting their Opposition to the late Taxation; only the Destruction of private Property they condemn: John Huske, in the House of Commons very facetiously called upon George Grenville as follows, "So my Lord, I perceive I have had the Honour to be hung in Effigy along side your Lordship in America,"—meaning the Affair at Liberty Tree in Boston, on the first of November last. A great Number of Vessels were put up for this Place, but no Freights; nor were any expected until Spring; before which Time it was hoped the Stamp Act would be repealed.

Divers Sentiments seem to be contained in the last private Letters from England, respecting the Repeal or Suspension of the Stamp Act.

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