

the People have. But can it, with any Propriety, from hence be said, that Parliaments have no Right to possess the People, or any Set of Men on their Behalf, with a delegated Power of taxing themselves for their own Use; as in the Case before us? Or that such a Power of Taxing, which, as was before observed, may be resumed when ever it is found pernicious or inconvenient, is inconsistent with the hereditary Rights of an *English* Subject, or a parting with the People's Power over their own Purse? No surely, for if this had been the Case, that rapacious King, who oppress'd the People with the Article of Ship-Money, without any Colour or Pretence of Law, but merely by the Force of Prerogative, would have had Recourse to the Statute of *Henry VIII* before mentioned, and fill'd every Bench in the Kingdom with a Set of Tools for his Purpose. Having thus, I think, fully proved that the Law, by which the Justices of *Prince-George's* County lately taxed the Inhabitants, is neither repugnant to, nor subversive of, any Part of the *English* Constitution, but agreeable to the Laws and Customs of that Realm in the like Cases; I shall now proceed to shew, what has been the Construction which has hitherto been put upon this Act of Assembly; and that the late Tax is grounded on Precedent and Custom, as well as the general Words of the Law. In 1710, the Justices of *Prince-George's* assesse'd the Inhabitants twelve thousand Pounds of Tobacco for the building of a County Goal. This happen'd but six Years after the making of the Law; when it may reasonably be supposed the Intention of the Legislature might be better judg'd of than at present. Those who are ever fond of Quibbling in a bad Cause, or making Objections without any Kind of Foundation, may alledge, that the Building of a Prison under a general Law is no Precedent or Authority for repairing a Court House. However, to obviate such trifling Arguments, in 1713 we find on the Records of the same County, nine thousand five hundred Pounds of Tobacco levied "for Work done to the Court-House." In 1735 fifty-five Pounds Current Money, was allowed for the same Purpose: And in 1744, twelve thousand two hundred and eighty Pounds of Tobacco was assesse'd for repairing the present Goal. Are not these Instances sufficient to shew the late Tax not to be unprecedented, but founded on Custom almost ever since the Law; and is not Custom the best Expounder of the Laws, agreeable to the Maxim, *Optimus legum interpretis consuetudo*. How then can this be called a very extraordinary Order of Court? Will it avail any Thing to say, that because the late Tax is higher than any of the former, that therefore it is illegal? This is a Way of reasoning suitable enough to the tender Years of an Infant, but can never become those who profess themselves competent Judges of the *British* Constitution; a little Knowledge of which would convince them, that a Court has the same Right to take from an *Englishman*, without Law, a Million as a Penny.

HAVING thus I hope proved, beyond all Contradiction, that the late Proceeding of *Prince-George's* County Court, is warranted by the Laws and Customs of this Province, that such a Power in County Courts is agreeable to the Constitution of *Great Britain*, and that it cannot possibly be attended with any Danger to the Liberties and Properties of the People; I shall conclude with saying, that in the Course of this Dispute I have been unbyas'd by any Interest, save that of my Country, and uninfluenced by any Prejudice, but that of a just Resentment of the wicked and treacherous Measur'd of those, who, under a Pretence of preserving Liberty, would introduce an unbounded Licentiousness, and sap the very Foundations of all Government; a Light in which I have ever look'd upon the Doctrine of the *Freholder* and his Party. And however well or ill my Sentiments on this Occasion may be taken, I shall at least have the pleasing Consciousness of having endeavour'd to open the Eyes of my honest, but deluded, Countrymen.

I am, Sir, Yours,

A Native of MARYLAND.

LONDON, March 1

An Extract of a Letter from a foreign Minister at the Hague, dated February 20.

"There is much Talk here amongst the People of Distinction, of a Discourse which, by chance, Prince Frederick of Hesse had with the Minister of Prussia residing here, which, it is said, was to the following Purpose. The Prince of Hesse happening not long ago, to be alone with Mr. Ammon, the Russian Minister, said to him, 'The nearer the time of the conferences approaches, the more affairs seem to be embroiled, and the less prospect there is of peace.' — 'That's true, my Prince,' answered the Minister, 'your observation is just.' — 'Then pray, Sir, said the Prince, give me leave to ask you, whether you believe that his Prussian Majesty will take party, and if he will supply France with troops; this, at least, is commonly reported, and it even seems as if France had some Dependance upon it.' — 'How, Sir, answered M. Ammon, *the King, my master, furnishes any power with troops I that method of proceeding indeed may be of service to little Princes, 'tis their trade, but not that of Kings, and especially of a King of Prussia.* It's easy to judge what effect this answer must have had, some say, the Prince immediately turn'd his back on M. Ammon, and very prudently made him no reply. Others pretend, that his highness very smartly said, 'Princes do actually furnish troops to the powers they contract with; but Kings frequently receive subsidies to exercise and keep their armies in breath.' This thing would scarce ever have been talk'd of, had not the Prince been much offended with it, spoke of it himself, and suddenly set out for his Territories in Germany."

ANNAPOLIS, May 13.

Yesterday two more Persons were committed to Goal, on a strong Suspicion of being concern'd in the late Robberies.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Annapolis, May 13. 1748.

WHEREAS the Stores and Warehouses of the Subscribers, were some Time ago robb'd of sundry Goods, such as Irish Linnens, Check Linnens, striped Hollands, sail Duck, Garlicks, Dowlasies, linnen Handkerchiefs, and perhaps many other Goods not yet discovered.

And one of the principal Persons concern'd is supposed to be one *Henry Widden*, a Joiner by Trade, and a very good Workman, (Servant to *John Rejs*, Esq;) who, upon hearing of the above Robberies being discovered, has run off. He is a well-set Man, of a fresh Complexion, aged about 25 Years, and is about five Foot six Inches high, was born in the West of England, and speaks good English; he commonly wears a brown bob Wig: His other Drefs cannot be described, he having a Variety of Cloaths, and no doubt Plenty of Money; and as he writes a good Hand may probably have forg'd a Pass.

This is therefore to give Notice, that whoever will apprehend the said *Henry Widden*, and secure him in any Goal, so that he may be brought to Justice, shall have Fifteen Pounds Reward, of the Currency where taken, paid by

ROBERT SWAN,
LYDE GOODWIN.

THE Subscriber, in LONDON-TOWN on *South-River*, has cross'd a Rope-Walk, and makes all sorts of Cables, Cordage, and Rigging for Ships, and other Vessels; as also Sail-Twine, Logg-Lines, deep-sea-Lines, Houpline and Marline; and white Rope for Country Uses. He is provided with an excellent Workman from London, well skill'd in all Parts of the Business. Any Gentlemen who may have occasion to purchase, may be furnish'd at said Rope-Walk, or at Mr. *James Dick's* Store in *Annapolis*, and may depend on having what is good and clean; great Pains being taken to bring it to the greatest Perfection.

There is now ready made, all Sizes of Cordage and Running-Rigging, both at *London-Town* and *Annapolis*, to be sold by
STEPHEN WEST, jun.