

The House of Representatives of this Province have taken into their serious consideration the great Difficulties that must accrue to themselves and their Constituents by the Operation of the several Acts of Parliament imposing Duties and Taxes on the American Colonies -

As it is a Subject in which every Colony is deeply interested, they have no reason to doubt but your Assembly is duly impressed with its Importance, and that such constitutional Measures will be taken by them as are proper, It seems to be necessary that all possible care should be taken that the Representations of the several Assemblies, upon so delicate a Point should harmonize with each other, The House therefore hope that this Letter will be candidly considered in no other light than as expressing a Desire then freely to communicate their Mind to a Sister Colony, upon a common concern, in the same Manner as they would be glad to receive the Sentiments of your or any other House of Assembly on the Continent -

This House have humbly represented to the Ministry their own Sentiments; That His Majesty's High Court of Parliament is the supreme Legislative Power over the whole Empire; That 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 Oath of Allegiance, have an equitable Claim to full Enjoyment of the fundamental Rules of the British Constitution, That 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 <sup>the same</sup> inalienable 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 with 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 -

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 presented an humble Petition and loyal Petition to our most Gracious Sovereign, and made such Representations to his Majesty's Ministers, as they apprehend would tend to obtain Redress. They have also submitted it to Consideration whether any People can be said to enjoy any Degree of Freedom, if the Crown, in Addition to its undoubted Authority of