

and Honour of Government, unjust and cruel in it's Principles, rigorous and oppressive in the Means provided for it's Execution, and as pernicious in it's Consequences to the Mother Country, as injurious to the Colonies in it's immediate Operation, but I may call it a rigorous and severe Law. It is in vain to attempt a Palliation of this useless Severity, (useless I mean to the Purpose of raising a Revenue) by fallaciously pretending that, as all the Colonies were to be taxed; and the Authority of each is limited, the Interposition of the Parliament became necessary, since Nothing can be less disputable, than that each Colony hath a competent Authority to raise it's Proportion, and consequently nothing is more evident, than that all the Colonies might raise the whole. * The Assertion that the Colonies would have paid no Regard to any Requisitions, is rash and unauthoriz'd, and had the Event actually happened, the Trouble and Loss of Time to the Ministers in making the Experiment, would not have been considerable or detrimental to the Nation, and after it's Failure, an Act of Parliament might still have been made to compel the Contribution, if the Power which hath been exercised is defensible upon the Principles of the *British Constitution*.

A Measure so extreme, could hardly be at once pursued, because the Ministers did not know what to demand, who have made so many Regulations in regard to the Colonies, "founded upon Knowledge, formed with Judgment, and executed with Vigour." Had the Requisitions been communicated, I make no Doubt but They would have been entertained with Respect, and productive of all the Effects that could reasonably have been expected from Them. A petty *American* Assembly would not, in Answer to

* It is asserted in the Pamphlet entitled, *The Claim of the Colonies, &c.* that *Maryland* availing herself of the Protection of *Virginia* and *Pennsylvania*, contributed Nothing to the common Defence. This Writer from a View of some Map of *North-America* imagined, it should seem, that *Virginia* and *Pennsylvania* were settled so as to encompass *Maryland*, but the Truth is, that the Frontiers of *Maryland* were as much exposed, as those of the next Colonies, and the Fact is moreover False, for I have been well informed that *Maryland* contributed near 50,000*l.* and incurred besides a considerable Expence, which is now a Debt upon the Public Journal of that Colony, by putting her Militia into actual Service, and that an unhappy Dispute, attended with a very heavy Provincial Charge on some Topick of Privilege, was the real Cause, why the Grants of *Maryland* were not more liberal. After all, there have been Instances, I speak not of more modern Times, in which the Parsimony of the Parliament hath been complained of, and the Notion of Privilege carried to a great Length by the House of Commons; but these have not been thought solid Reasons for stripping their Constituents of their Rights.

such