

such Requisitions, have impertinently recommended the Reduction of exorbitant Salaries, the Abatement of extravagant, and the Abolition of illegal Perquisites, the Extinction of useless Places, or the disbanding of undervaluing, or ill deserving Pensioners, as a more proper and beneficial Method of relieving the public Burthens, than a new and heavy Imposition upon useful and industrious Subjects.

Have great Things been promised for the Ease of the People of *England*, and hath a Measure been fallen upon, that, by putting the Accomplishment of them at a Distance, and keeping Expectation alive, it may contribute to the Prolongation of a Power, which, in the Interim, will find sufficient Opportunities to gratify the Views of Ministerial Avarice or Ambition?

If a Sum had been liquidated, and a precise Demand made, it might, perhaps, have been shewn, if proportioned to the Circumstances of the Colonies, to be of no real Consequence to the Nation; and, if above their Circumstances, that it would, with the Oppression of the Plantations, prove ruinous to the *British* Manufactures; but, whilst Matters are thus vague, and indeterminate, any Attempt to shew that the *Stamp Duties* will be inadequate to the promised Relief, distress the Colonies, and consequently beggar the *British* Manufacturers, may be obviated by saying, that "the Act is in the Nature of an Experiment; if inadequate, other Methods may be superadded; if inconvenient, it may be repealed, as soon as discovered;" and Hints may be thrown out at the same Time, to cherish the Hopes of the Nation, that there are the best Grounds to expect \* the Measure will be productive of all that can be desired or wished.

The frugal *Republicans* of *North-America*, (if the *British* Inhabitants there are to be distinguished by a *Nick-Name*, because it implies that They are Enemies to the Government of *England*, and ought therefore to be regarded with a jealous Eye) may be allowed, without derogating from the vast and

\* It is asserted by the Author of *The Claim of the Colonies, &c.* that the Merchants trading to the several Colonies gave in an Estimate of the Debt due to Them from the Colonies, amounting to 4,000,000*l.* It would have been a real public Service if he had pointed out how this Debt is to be paid under the Oppression of new and heavy Impositions, or what will be the proper Remedy if there should be a Stoppage in the Payment of 4,000,000*l.* a Stagnation of Commerce, and Want of Employment to the *British* Manufacturers.

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