

prodigious Knowledge of a Minister, to be acquainted with their own internal Circumstances better than a Stranger, who must depend upon Information; and that too, most frequently, of Men not the most eminent for their Candour, distinguished by their Sagacity, or respectable for their Integrity. Had Requisitions been made, and the Sum demanded been equitable, and proportioned to their Circumstances, They could have fallen upon Ways and Means less oppressive than the *Stamp Duties*. They have frequently taxed Themselves: They have tried various Methods of Taxation: They know, by Experience, the easiest and least expensive.—The Meaning, or Construction of their Levy-Acts is settled: They can be carried into Execution, not only at a small Expence, without exhausting a considerable Part of their Produce by the Multiplication of Officers, and their Support; but without heavy Pains and grievous Penalties, without Oppression of the innocent, giving Countenance to Vexation, and Encouragement to profligate Informers, without the Establishment of arbitrary and *distant* Courts of * Admiralty.

The national Debt is heavy, and it is a popular Scheme to draw from the Colonies a Contribution towards the Relief of the Mother-Country.—The Manner of effecting it is not carefully attended to, or nicely regarded by those who expect to receive the Benefit.—The End is so ardently desired, that, whether the Means might not be more moderate, is not scrupulously examined by Men, who think Themselves in no Danger of Injury or Oppression from their Severity. It is affirmed to those who cannot detect the Fallacy of the Assertion, that Millions have been expended *solely* in the Defence of *America*. They believe it, and thence are easily persuaded that the Claim of a Contribution from the Colonies is just and equitable, and that any Measure necessary to secure it, is right and laudable.—It is represented, that unless the Colonies are stripped of the *Trial by Jury*, and Courts of *Admiralty* are established, in which Judges from *England*, Strangers, without Connection or Interest in *America*, removeable at Pleasure, and supported by liberal Salaries, are to preside; unless Informers are encouraged and favoured, and the accused most rigorously dealt by, that the Tax will be eluded—and these Severities are excus'd on Account of their supposed Necessity. The Colonies are described to be a numerous, flourishing, and opulent People:—It is alleged that They contribute to the national Expence, by Taxes *there* only the pitiful Sum of 1900*l.* per Year, for the Collection of which, an Estab-

* It was formerly held to be a grievous Oppression, that, instead of having Justice at Home, the *English* Subject was drawn to *Rome* by APPEALS, but an *American* is to be drawn from Home, in the FIRST INSTANCE, as well as by Appeals.