

as their Settlement was to be made under the Protection of the *English* Government, They knew, that in Consequence of their Relation to the Mother-Country, They and their Posterity would be subordinate to the supreme national Council, and expected that Obedience and Protection would be considered as reciprocal Duties.

Considering Themselves, and being considered in this Light, They entered into a Compact with the Crown, the Basis of which was, *That their Privileges as English Subjects, should be effectually secured to Themselves, and transmitted to their Posterity.* And as for this Purpose, precise Declarations and Provisions formed upon the Principles, and according to the Spirit of the *English Constitution* were necessary; CHARTERS were accordingly framed and conferred by the Crown, and accepted by the Settlers, by which all the Doubts and Inconveniencies which might have arisen from the Application of general Principles to a new Subject, were prevented.

By these Charters, founded upon the unalienable Rights of the Subject, and upon the most sacred Compact, the Colonies claim a Right of Exemption from Taxes *not imposed with their Consent.*—They claim it upon the Principles of the Constitution, as once *English*, and now *British* Subjects, upon Principles on which their Compact with the Crown was originally founded.

The Origin of other Governments is covered by the Veil of Antiquity, and is differently traced by the Fancies of different Men; but, of the Colonies, the Evidence of it is as clear and unequivocal as of any other Fact.

By these declaratory Charters the Inhabitants of the Colonies claim an Exemption from *all* Taxes not imposed by their own Consent, and to infer from their Objection to a Taxation, to which their Consent is not, nor can be given, *that They are setting up a Right in the Crown to dispense with Acts of Parliament, and to deprive the British Subjects in America of the Benefits of the Common Law,* is so extremely absurd, that I should be at a Loss to account for the Appearance of so strange an Argument; were I not apprized of the unworthy Arts employed by the Enemies of the Colonies to excite strong Prejudices against Them in the Minds of their Brethren at Home, and what gross Incongruities prejudiced Men are wont to adopt.

Tho' I am persuaded that this Reasoning hath already been sufficiently refuted, and that no sensible and dispassionate Man can perceive any Force in it, yet I can't help remarking, that it is grounded upon a Principle, which, if it were possible for the Examiner to establish it, would entitle him to the

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