

Applause of the Inhabitants in *Great-Britain*, as little as to the Thanks of the Colonies.

From what Source do the Peers of *England* derive their Dignity, and the Share They have in the *British Legislature*? Are there no Places, in *England* that derive their Power of chusing Members of Parliament from royal Charters? Will this Writer argue, that the Crown may, by Prerogative, tax the Inhabitants of *Great-Britain*, because the Peers of *England*, and some Representatives of the People, exercise a legislative Authority under Royal Patents and Charters? It must be admitted that all the Members of the House of Commons are freely chosen by the People, and are not afterwards subject to any Influence of the Crown or the Ministry: And are not the Members of the Lower Houses of Assembly as freely chosen also by the People; and, in Fact, as independent as the Members of the House of Commons? If the Truth were confessed, the Objection would not be, *that the Colonies are too dependent upon the Crown*, or that their Claim of Exemption from all Taxes, not imposed by their own Consent, is *founded upon a Principle leading to Slavery*. At one Time, the *North-Americans* are called *Republicans*; at another, *the Assertors of Despotism*. What a strange Animal must a *North-American* appear to be from these Representations to the Generality of *English* Readers, who have never had an Opportunity to admire, that He may be neither black, nor tawny, may speak the *English* Language, and, in other Respects, seem, for all the World, like one of Them!

“The Common Law, the great Charter, the Bill of Rights,” are so far from “declaring, with one Voice, that the Inhabitants of the Colonies shall be taxed by no other Authority than that of the *British Parliament*,” that They prove the contrary; for the Principle of the Common Law is, *that no Part of their Property shall be drawn from British Subjects, without their Consent, given by those whom They depute to represent Them*; and this Principle is enforced by the Declaration of the GREAT CHARTER, and the *Bill of Rights*, neither the one nor the other, introducing any *new Privilege*. In *Great-Britain*, the Consent of the People is given by the House of Commons; and, as Money had been levied there for the Use of the Crown, by *Pretence of Prerogative, without their Consent*, it was properly declared at the Revolution, in Support of the Constitution, and in Vindication of the People’s Rights, that the levying of Money, by *Pretence of Prerogative, without Grant of Parliament, i. e. without their Consent* who are to pay it, is illegal, which Declaration was most suitable to the Occasion, and effectually establishes the very Principle contended for by the Colonies.

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