

Instances of their Commission, is a Kind of Argument which never can produce Conviction, tho' it may *their* Acquiescence, whom the Terror of greater Evils may restrain from resisting, and thus the Despotism of the East may be supported, and the natural Rights of Mankind be trampled under Feet. The Question of Right, therefore, doth not depend upon Precedents, but on the Principles of the Constitution, and hath been put upon it's proper Point already discussed, whether the Colonies are represented or not, in Parliament.

As the Name of *Hampden* occurred to the Examiner in his Design of casting an oblique Reflection upon the Colonies, it is surprising he did not recollect, that very numerous Precedents have been applied in the Defence of an arbitrary and oppressive Proceeding, destructive of the essential Principle of *English* Liberty. But tho' meer Acts of Power prove no Right, yet the real Opinion entertained of it, may be inferred from Forbearance; for Mankind are generally so fond of Power, that they are oftener tempted to exercise it beyond the Limits of Justice, than induced to set Bounds to it from the pure Consideration of the Rectitude of Forbearance. Wherefore if I had deny'd the Principle of this Kind of Reasoning, without shewing the Defects of the artificial painted Precedents which have been produced, I might still very consistently urge, that, the repeated and uniform Requisitions of the *English* Ministers, as often as Occasions for the *single Purpose of Revenue* have happened, transmitted to the Colonies to tax Themselves by Provincial Acts, and the Acts of Parliament regulating the Trade of the Plantations, as well as of *Ireland*, without one Instance, before the Stamp-Act of a Tax imposed by Parliament upon either, for the *unmixed* Purpose of Revenue prove, that the Imposition of a Tax upon them without their Consent, hath constantly been held to be inconsistent with their Constitutional Rights and Privileges. I have joined *Ireland* with the Colonies, and presume it will hardly be contended that *Ireland*, over which the Courts of Justice in *England* have a superintendant Power, is not, at least, as subject to *Great-Britain* as the Colonies are.

A most extraordinary Reason hath been given, why the Method of Requisition would have been improper, *viz.* that "the Sums raised must be paid into the Exchequer, and if levied by the Provincial Assemblies, the Parliament would have no Right to enquire into the Expenditure of them." This is so extremely futile, that it would be almost absurd to bestow a serious Refutation upon it.

Why must the Sums raised be paid into the Exchequer? If the Intention is to apply them in the Colonies to any internal Purpose, why must they