

jeſty's Service, to which our Lives and Fortunes are entirely devoted, and to which, on his Royal Requiſitions, we have ever been ready to contribute to the utmoſt of our Abilities.

We have alſo the Miſfortune to find, that all the Penalties and Forfeitures mentioned in the Stamp Act, and in divers late Acts of Trade extending to the Plantations, are, at the Election of the Informer, Recoverable in any Court of Admiralty in *America*. This, as the newly erected Court of Admiralty has a general Jurisdiction over all *Britiſh America*, renders his Majeſty's Subjects in theſe Colonies, liable to be carried, at an immense Expence, from one End of the Continent, to the other.

It gives us alſo great Pain, to ſee a manifeſt Diſtinction made therein, between the Subjects of our Mother Country, and thoſe in the Colonies, in that the like Penalties and Forfeitures recoverable there only in his Majeſty's Courts of Record, are made cognizable here by a Court of Admiralty: By theſe Means we ſeem to be, in Effect, unhappily deprived of Two Privileges eſſential to Freedom, and which all *Engliſhmen* have ever conſidered as their beſt Birthrights, that of being free from all Taxes but ſuch as they have conſented to in Perſon, or by their Representatives, and of Trial by their Peers.

Your Petitioners further ſhew, That the remote Situation, and other Circumſtances of the Colonies, render it impracticable that they ſhould be Reſented, but in their reſpective ſubordinate Legislature; and they humbly conceive, that the Parliament, adhering ſtrictly to the Principles of the Conſtitution, have never hitherto Tax'd any, but thoſe who were actually therein Reſented; for this Reaſon, we humbly apprehend, they never have Tax'd *Ireland*, or any other of the Subjects without the Realm.

But were it ever ſo clear, that the Colonies might in Law, be reaſonably deem'd to be Reſented in the Honourable Houſe of Commons. yet we conceive, that very good Reaſons, from Inconvenience, from the Principles of true Policy, and from the Spirit of the *Britiſh* Conſtitution, may be adduced to ſhew, that it would be for the real Intereſt of *Great-Britain*, as well as her Colonies, that the late Regulations ſhould be reſcinded, and the ſeveral Acts of Parliament impoſing Duties and Taxes on the Colonies, and extending the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Admiralty here, beyond their ancient Limits, ſhould be Repeal'd.

We ſhall not Attempt a minute Detail of all the Reaſons which the Wiſdom of the Honourable Houſe may ſuggeſt, on this Occaſion, but would humbly ſubmit the following Particulars to their Conſideration.

That Money is already become very ſcarce in theſe Colonies, and is ſtill decreasing by the neceſſary Exportation of Specie from the Continent, for the Diſcharge of our Debts to *Britiſh* Merchants.

That an immenſly heavy Debt is yet due from the Colonies for *Britiſh* Manufactures, and that they are ſtill heavily burthen'd with Taxes to diſcharge the Arrearages due for Aids granted by them in the late War.

That