

BEFORE we enter into a Detail of the Transactions of the Committee, and of the Persons who were interested in the Fate of the Goods imported on board the Brigantine GOOD INTENT, *William Errington*, from *Louïen*, in the Month of *February 1770*, it may be necessary to recal to the public Attention, some interesting Circumstances and Events which had great Weight with the Committee in their Determination.

The Province of *Maryland*, and the whole Continent of *British America*, had, for more than an Hundred Years, carried on a very extensive Commerce with *Great-Britain*, which gave a quick Progress to the Population of *America*, and advanced greatly the Strength, Wealth and Grandeur of *Great-Britain*; and the most cordial Love and Attachment always prevailed in the peaceful Breasts of the *Americans* toward their Mother-Country. Such was their Situation, and such were their Sentiments when they were first apprised of the odious, and never—to be—forgotten STAMP-ACT.

It is not our Design to point out to the Public who were the Authors, or Abettors of that cruel *American Yoke*, nor what Tumults and Heart-burnings it occasioned throughout the whole *British Empire*; the Affair is so recent, and so well known on this Side the Globe, that the bare mention of it is sufficient.

The noble and generous Sentiments in Favour of Liberty, and the Conviction impressed on the Minds of most People, by a Pamphlet, entitled, “*Considerations on the Propriety of raising a Revenue, in America*,” soon animated, the whole Body of Merchants and Traders, as well as all Ranks of Men, to unite in a firm Resolution, not to import, or use any *British Goods* while the Stamp-Act should continue in Force. This alarmed the Merchants and Manufacturers of *Britain*, who plainly saw, by that Act, the Foundation laid for the Destruction of the Commerce and Happiness of both Countries: To them, and to their Influence, supported by those illustrious Patriots, PITT and CAMDEN, may the *Americans* attribute the sudden REPEAL.

The universal Joy that spread over the whole Continent of *North-America*, prevented People from taking any Public Notice of the Act declaratory of the Right of Taxation, which passed the same Session; the wisest Men thought it highly improbable that any Man would again attempt to kindle up the Fire that was but just extinguished: But alas! the Chains for *America* were only laid aside, and a very little Time shewed her unhappy Sons that new Modes of Oppression were preparing for them.

The Act of Parliament laying a Duty on Tea, Paper, Glass, and Painters Colours, imported into *America*, soon took place. It was not at first attended to, and People here, having just emerged from a Sea of Troubles, were so pleased with the calm Interval of Happiness, that they were utterly unwilling to embroil themselves anew. More than a Year passed away before any considerable Notice was taken of it. The FARMER'S LETTERS FIRST awakened the Attention of the Public—All the Assemblies on the Continent petitioned and remonstrated; but every Effort proved vain and fruitless—What dreadful Scenes followed? Boards of Commissioners! New Officers! Extension of Admiralty Courts! Troops Quartered in the Town of *Boston*! The Legislature of *New-York* suspended! Many of the other Assemblies dissolved with Indignation!