

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. John Buchanan, Merchant in London, to Messieurs James Dick and Stewart, Merchants in this City, dated August 1, 1769.*

“WE have just received Advice, that the Gentlemen of *Virginia* and *Maryland*, are very much offended that some of the *Virginia* and *Maryland* Merchants, signed the Address of the Merchants and principal Traders of the City of *London* to the King, expressing their Abhorrence of the Attempts made to spread Sedition, inflame the Minds, and alienate the Affections of the People from his Majesty’s Person and Government, which was notoriously done at that Time, by a Party; one of the principal Persons of which, is the Man, who, by the Stamp-Act, was the first Cause of all the Contention between the Colonies and the Mother-Country; and that Address was set on Foot in Opposition to that Party; who, give me Leave to observe, are no Friends to the Colonies. I have read over the Address again, and I don’t find any Thing in it that relates to *America*: I dare say there is not one Man who signed it, but what is a Well-wisher to the Colonies; as for my Part, I have all the Reason in the World to be so, and I have always declared myself against taxing them, as a Thing unjust, upon the Principle of their not being represented. I have the greatest Regard for my Friends in *Maryland*; and considering how I am situated with them, I should be a Fool and a Madman to do any Thing that would hurt them. I have just been taking a balance of my Books, and the Effects and Debts due to me in *Maryland*, including the Iron-Works, amount to no less than ——— l. To think that any Man so situated, would designedly do any Thing to hurt the People of that Colony, is absurd. I had my Share of Trouble in getting the Stamp-Act repealed, and I am still ready to do every Thing in my Power to relieve *North-America* from their present Distresses.”

How far it can with Propriety be said, “that the Gentlemen of *Virginia* and *Maryland* were very much offended with the *London* Merchants, for presenting a LOYAL Address against SEDITION,” it is not our Business to declare, nor is it our Business to say how far the Cause of *America* was affected by it: The Gentleman himself says, “he is a Friend to *America*, and ready to do every Thing in his Power to relieve *North-America* from their present Distresses;” and, as he certainly best knows his own Intentions, we in *Charity* are bound to believe and conclude him a Friend to the Association, and the Liberty of *America*; he himself very properly declaring, “that he has all the Reason in the World to be so:”

And to convince Messieurs *Dick* and *Stewart*, that we will not miss an Opportunity of doing them, as well as every Body else, Justice, to the utmost of our Power; and as so handsome an Occasion presents itself in that same Paper, Number 1255, we declare that we think ourselves happy in having in our whole Proceedings been actuated by the same Principles they there adopt. “When (say they) it is thought, by many Gentlemen, to be repugnant to the general Spirit of the Association, and of the 5th Article in particular, we, as soon as we knew the Sentiments of these Gentlemen, determined” — What? — To submit — Why? — Because “we are clearly of Opinion, that wherever the least Doubt arises, the Interpretation should be in favour of discouraging any Persons whatever, from importing or buying Goods contrary to the true Spirit of the Association.” As we really think their Sentiments on that Occasion did them Honour, and