

must accrue to themselves and their Constituents by the operation of the several Acts of Parliament imposing Duties and Taxes on the American Colonies.

As it is a Subject in which every Colony is deeply interested, they have no Reason to doubt but your Assembly is duly impressed with its Importance, and that such constitutional Measures will be taken by them as are proper. It seems to be necessary that all possible Care should be taken the Representations of the several Assemblies upon so delicate a Point should harmonize with each other. The House therefore hope that this Letter will be candidly considered in no other Light than as expressing a Disposition freely to communicate their mind to a Sister Colony upon a common Concern in the same manner as they would be glad to receive the Sentiments of your or any other House of Assembly on the Continent.

The House have humbly represented to the Ministry their own Sentiments: That His Māty's high Court of Parliament is the supreme legislative Power over the whole Empire; That in all free States the Constitution is fixed; And as the supreme Legislature derives its Power and Authority from the Constitution, it cannot overleap the Bounds of it without destroying its own Foundation; That the Constitution ascertains and limits both Sovereignty and Allegiance, and therefore His Māty's American Subjects who acknowledge themselves bound by the Ties of Allegiance have an equitable claim to the full Enjoyment of the fundamental Rules of the British Constitution; That it is an essential unalterable Right in Nature, ingrafted into the British Constitution as a fundamental Law, and ever held Sacred and irrevocable by the Subjects within the Realm, that what a man has honestly acquired is absolutely his own, which he may freely give, but cannot be taken from him without his Consent; That the American Subjects may therefore, exclusive of any Consideration of Charter Rights, with a decent Firmness adapted to the character of free Men and Subjects, assert this natural constitutional Right. It is, moreover, their humble Opinion, which they express with the greatest Deference to the Wisdom of Parliament, that the Acts made there imposing Duties on the People of this Province, with the sole and express Purpose of raising a Revenue, are Infringements of their natural constitutional Rights, because as they are not represented in the British Parliament, His Māty's Commons in Britain by those Acts grant their Property without their Consent.

This House further are of Opinion that their Constituents considering their local Circumstances cannot by any Possibility be represented in the Parliament, and that it will forever be