



The following Petition was for published at New-York: The General Assembly have resolved that it was a Libel; and the said Assembly have taken the said Petition against it as the said Libel; and have ordered that the said Petition should be destroyed, the author or authors; Whether it be in truth a Libel, the American Publick, a grand Tribunal will judge:—There cannot by any Acts be the Inhabitants of this City and Colony of New-York have Reason to be of Opinion, should be granted the said Petition, if they were to be considered as a Legislature against their Consent: I Nor can it be the duty of the Legislature of the said REPRESENTATIVES of the People who voted for it, that they did not know the minds of their Constituents—They could have known their Minds, and they ought to have known their Minds: For as matters of this nature, till they have been consulted their Constituents:—We have no Reason to suppose the first Attachment of our Brethren and fellow Citizens the Inhabitants of New-York in general, to the common Cause: We hope they will explicitly make their Minds known to the Legislature, and that they will in the mean Time not be so much concerned as the Influence of Conduct in the Assembly, when we consider that the Vote was carried in a very thin House, there being a Majority of ONE only, of its members present.

TO THE BETRAYED INHABITANTS OF THE CITY AND COLONY

My dear Fellow Citizens and Countrymen,

IN a day when the minions of tyranny and despotism in the Mother Country, and the Colonies, are indefatigably laying every envenom'd instrument of corrupt treachery to ensnare a free people—when that unfortun'd people are daily being sacrific'd to the advantages for three thousand years past, to a Kingdom which to an Englishman is as dear as life,—when the merchants of this city and the capital towns on the continent, have nobly and cheerfully sacrificed their private interests, to the public good, rather than to promote the design of the enemy:—When the Representatives of the people, who are petitioned that in this day of constitutional liberty, the Representatives of this Colony, would not be to handgerdner to be lost to all sense of duty to their Constituents, (especially after the laudable example of the colonies of Massachusetts Bay and South-Carolina, before them) as to betray the rights of their constituents, and to be the betrayers of the vote to give the troops £ 2000, out of any moneys that may be in the treasury, and another thousand out of the moneys that may be oblig'd, to be put out on loan, which the colony will be oblig'd to make good, whether the bill for that purpose does or does not obtain the Royal assent. And now that the Representatives of the people, will appear from the following considerations, to wit: That the Ministry are waiting to see, whether the Colonies, under their dissidled circumstances, will divide on any of the grand points, which they are united in, and contending for, with the mother-country; by which they may secure the support of the Ministry, and the continuance of their administration. For if this should not take place, the odds must be repeated; which will be reflection on their conduct, and will bring the reproach and clamour of the nation on them, for the loss of trade to the Empire, which their mis-conduct has occasioned.

Our granting money, which is implicitly acknowledging the authority that enacts the Revenue-Acts, and their being obligatory on us. As these Acts were enacted for the express purpose of taking money out of our pockets, without our consent, and to provide for the defence and support of government in America; which revenue being by our grant, we are to be considered as the purpose of the Ministry, therefore we supply the deficiency. This was the point of view in which these Acts were considered, by the Massachusetts and South-Carolina assemblies, and to prevent that dangerous construction, refused it. On this important point we have differ'd with those spirited colonies, who are the only ones that have not been the cyphers of the Ministry to the Colonies, & by implicit consent their laudable and patriotic denial. For if they did yield (which every sensible American thinks they did) in refusing to pay the bill,ing money, surely we have done wrong, very wrong, in giving it. But our Assembly says, they have done right, and that they are bound to do so. Consequently the Massachusetts Assembly did not do this, in not obeying the ministerial mandate: If this is not a division in this grand point, I know not what is: and I doubt not but, the Ministry will let us know it to our cost. It will furnish them with arguments and justifications, which will be the more convincing, as they are sensible people, for the spirited and early notice they took of the suspending Act? No, it is base ingratitude, and betraying the common cause of Liberty.

To what other influence than the desiring the American cause, does the Ministry attribute to pusillanimous consent to the Revenue-Acts? To what other influence than the loss of all the rights we have lost, and opposition that has been made by this and the other Colonies, to the tyrannical conduct of the British parliament? To no other. Can there be a more ridiculous rage to impose on the people, and to force the Assembly to vote their thanks to be given to the Ministers, than to require them to pay the Revenue-Acts import Goods from Britain, until the Revenue-Acts should be repealed, while they at the same time counteract it by counteracting British Acts, and complying with Ministerial Resolutions, incompatible with our freedom? Surely there is no other.

And what makes the Assembly's granting this Money the more grievous, is, that it goes to the support of Troops kept here, not to protect, but to enslave us. Has not the truth of this remark been lately exemplified in the audacious domineering and inhuman Man, Pullen, who sold out the Troops to the Ministry, and who has disgraced the laudable non importation agreement of the merchants, in order to break that, which is the only means left them, under God, to battle the designs of their enemies, to enslave this continent. This consideration alone ought to be sufficient to induce a free people, not to give their thanks to the Ministers, who have sold out to the Ministry, and to the Mother-Country, that made it necessary not to concede any thing that might destroy our freedom; reasons of economy and good policy, suggest, that we ought not to grant the troops money.

Whoever is the least acquainted with the English history must know, that grants frequently made to the crown,

are not to be refused, but with some degree of dignified dilating the report of thanksgiving or colony; This evinces the expediency of our stopping their grants now, which will be the more necessary, as we are in the way we may not, after the grand contraryity is settled; Have a new honest contention about the bill,ing money which must be the case if we do not put an end to it at this time: For the colony, in its impotential state, cannot support a charge which amounts to near seven hundred thousand, shall the other expences of the government be paid.

Hence it follows, that the Assembly have not been attentive to the Liberties of the continent, nor to the prosperity of the good people of this colony, in particular. They have not only situated it in such a manner, as to be liable to some counter-fores. This is very manifest, by the guilt and confusion, that covered the faces of the perfidious abettors of this measure, when the house was in debate on the subject. Mr. Colten knows, from the nature of things, that he cannot have the least prospect to be elected, if he is not elected, and that he will not have his wills the law fitted, and get a full salary from the assembly, flatters the ignorant members of it, with the consideration of the success of a bill, to emit a paper currency, when he is his artful coadjutors must know, that it is only a sine to impose on the people; for it will not obtain the Royal assent, if it is not obtained, and that he will not have his children hold offices under the government, if he did not secure an obedience to its requisitions, or do his duty, in case the assembly refused the bill,ing money, by diluting them, his children might be in danger of losing their offices, which he has sold to the assembly, they would not give him his salary.

The Delancy family knowing the expediency they have in the present posture of assembly, and how useful that influence will be to their ambitious designs, to manage a new government, have left no stone unturned to prevent a new government, which they intend to govern, and having trampled on the liberties of the people, and fearing their just resentments on such an event, are equally careful to preserve their seats, expressing, that if they can do it at this critical juncture, as if they imagined the grand controversy will be settled this winter, they will serve for ever, and will be content to be governed by the present unjust laws to them. To secure these several objects, the Delancy family, like town politicians, either they were to all appearance, at mortal odds with Mr. Colten, and represented him in all companies, as an enemy to his country; yet a coalition was now formed, in order to divide the votes of the people, and to secure the effect of which, has given birth to the abominable vote; by which the liberties of the people are betrayed. In short, they have brought matters to such a pass, that all the checks resulting from the form of our happy constitution, are destroyed.

It is now in our power, to save the trouble of a new election, their seats in the house of assembly, and place the Lieut. Governor in the Speaker's chair, and then there would be no waste of time in going from house to house, & his Honor would have the pleasure to see how zealous his former enemies are in examining his interests for themselves. It is thus that he is reflected in, when our all is at stake, in my country, root I imitate the noble example of the friends of liberty in England, who rather than be enslaved, contend for their rights with King, Lords and Commons. And will you suffer your liberties to be torn from you by the same means, which have torn from the friends of liberty in the streets of Charleston, and in your own city it is yet left prefers a unanimity with the brave Bostonians and Carolinians; and to prevent the accomplishment of the designs of tyrants. The House was so nearly divided on the subject of granting the money in the way the vote was put, that we have preserved the rights of the people for a respectable minority. What I would advise to be done, is, to assemble in the fields, on Monday next, where your seats ought to be taken on this important point; notwithstanding the impudence of Mr. Injunction, in his declining in the house; that he had consulted his constituents, and that he was for giving the money to the King, and to give a body to your members, and send us their joining with the minority, to oppose the bill; if they dare refuse your just requisition, appoint a committee to draw up a state of the whole matter, and send it to the Speakers of the several Houses of assembly on the continent, and to the friends of our cause in England, and publish it in the News-Papers, that the World may know your sentiments on this matter; in the only way your circumstances will admit: And I am confident, it will spirit the friends of our cause, and chagrin our enemies. Let the notification call the people, to be expressed, that whoever absents himself from the meeting, is guilty of a crime, which may be done by such as shall meet.—And that who may succeed, is the ungrateful desire of.

A SON OF LIBERTY.

New-York, Dec: 16th, 1769.

PERCIVZ that some have been so taken my meaning, in the copy of my letter in your Gazette of the 13th of September last. The whole of that letter evidently relates to an action of desecration. Not a word can therein be found of premeditated or sudden assault, nor of any other kind of violence, nor of any injury given by others than the first assault. But if I had any such desecration in "present" and in future had been under hand and seal refused, instead of discretionally suspended, what would that avail against an action of Treason or in arms, as the Jurys express it? "At present" I request that you will be so good as to inform me, if the Friends of Freedom, in the County of Lincoln, East? Does it hence follow that I never can, assault, or kill, if I please? (Those who are in doubt, may, if they please, consult Gist, Littleton, or rather Littleton and Gist. Question the law, for the present.) Can a future defendant be liable for an action of Treason, if he pleads in justification of a precedent ungentlemanlike, unchristian, unjust, bitter and barbarous wounding? Respondent Jurors! Respondent Jurors! A clear case and no favor is it all ever visited or wanted in Courts, Country, Camp, or City! JAMES OTWAY.

Left Thursday the Honor-ble Commander in Chief was pleas'd further to Prolong the Great and General Court from the 10th Instant, to the 14th of March next, and that he should be pleas'd to receive the Majesty's express Command.

MEANS ENDS & GILL.

The following is an Extract from the Charter of this Colony:—AND the Governor for the time being shall have full power and authority from time to time at the full Judgement, to adjure, prosecute and disavow all Great and General Courts or Assemblies met and convened at aforesaid.

THE power delegated by this clause to the Governor was undoubtedly in the favor of the people. The necessity and importance of a Legislature in being, and of its having the opportunity of exerting itself upon all proper occasions, must be obvious to a man of common discernment. Its grand object is the REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES: And for this purpose 'tis just, that parliaments should be so held frequently. The people may be aggrieved for the want of having a good law made, as well as repealing a bad one: So they may be, by the mis-conduct of the executive in its manner of administering justice severally under other of law. In all these cases, it is otherwise necessary, if the frequent reformation of the Legislature is necessary, as it is, if we have them, much more, if all other should at any time be justly complain'd of by the people, the adjourning, proroguing or dissolving the legislative, at such a juncture, would be the greatest of all grievances.—There may be other reasons for such a frequent reformation, besides the correcting any mis-conduct arising from the mis-conduct of its own jurisdiction.—Some of the Acts of the British parliament are generally thought to be grievous in their operation, and dangerous in their consequences, to the Liberties of the American Subjects: An American Legislature therefore, ought certainly to have the opportunity of examining and remonstrating their grievances to the British parliament, and the full exercise of that invaluable and UNCONTROLLABLE RIGHT of the Subject, TO PETITION THE KING, as often as they judge necessary, 'till they are relieved, or that the whole body of the people is satisfied of the people gilt it, it is too late to make such applications, must be a frustration of one grand design of its existence; and it naturally tends to other arbitrary exertions.—I have often thought that in former administrations such delays to call the general assembly, were intended for the purpose of giving the whole body of the people, an opportunity of petitioning at present I cannot help it, it is not answerable for it. It may not be amiss however for EVERY MAN to make it a subject of his consideration. We all remember that no longer ago than the last year the extraordinary dissolution, by Governor HENRY, in which he declared he was never intended to convene the general assembly, which the very day of its proceeding was a subject of an attention in the legal mind of the British Empire.

It is not to be expected that in ordinary times, much less at such an IMPORTANT period as THIS is, any man should be endowed with the wisdom of Solomon, at the distance of five or six years, to be able to foresee the consequences of the expediency of proroguing, and to effect every thing, and to see a time when their spirit of MISRESPECT TO HIMSELF becomes to be interrupted, it is for this reason that the delay of the general assembly, which is now being, appears to be intended in FAVOR of THIS PEOPLE: That there might be always at the head of the province, and resident therein, as the charter provides, a person of unimpaired integrity, candor, impartiality and wisdom, to judge of and determine to essential point—And that should the people, who are so justly beloved in this character, can be passive or merely ministerial, against his own judgment and conscience. Whenever therefore a Governor for the time being, adjures, prorogues or dissolves the general assembly, having first been so advised and authorized by the people, it is to be presumed that he exercises that power with freedom: That he determines according to the light of his own understanding, and not another's: That he clearly sees that it will answer those purposes which he himself judges to be best, having a man of fidelity in his Nation gilt, thereby to be able to answer in his own mind, and to be able to flatter the conceited sentiments of ANY OTHER man may he; he would have been oblig'd to do it, from the dictates of his own judgment, resulting from his own contemplation of the matter, if he had not received the express command of his Superior.—Such a man will bravely say, 'tis his mind, and venture.—Death.

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All Persons indebted to the Estate

of Captain John Hancock, late of Boston, Wm. Merchants, deceased, are desired to pay their respective Balances to Mr. Charles Hancock his Son, who is fully empowered by us the Subscribers, Executors of said John's Will, to receive the same, and give legal Discharges therefor.

John, Dec. 1769. JAMES PITTS, Secretary.

B. T. The Customers in Town and Country, of the Late Captain Hancock, deceased, are hereby inform'd that his Son Charles Hancock lives in the same House, & carries on the same Business his Father did; I having to sell the lowest Rates, all Sorts of the best of Wines, Spices, &c. And will sell them in the same Manner his Father did in his Life-time.

On Thursday the 25th Inst.

At Ten o'Clock in the Morning will be sold by Mr. JAMES VENABLE, at the Store of the late Mrs. John A. Smith, at the Door of the late Mr. Hirst and Crown in Cornhill, Boston. ALL his said Ward Ware GOODS, the particulars of which he had already been advertised, and was to have been sold the 3d Inst. had not Sicknes prevented.

J. Russell, Auctioneer.