

been tried, & has failed, is extremely ill founded, as it manifestly Appears from the whole Tenor of the Papers laid before us, that if this Experiment had been properly tried with the same Zeal for its Success with which it was first proposed, it would not have failed in any of the Colonies; and that this was the Opinion of the greater part of the Governors in North America, & of many of the most intelligent & respectable Persons in those Provinces for some time after this Act had Passed is Evident beyond a doubt from the Letters of the former now upon our Table, and from the latter having Applied for & Accepted the Office of Distributor of the Stamps under that Act which they certainly wo^d not have done & thereby have exposed their Lives and Fortunes to the Violence and Outrages which they have since Undergone if they had then thought the Success of this measure in any Degree precarious; nor have we heard of any Impracticability Attending this Law in Jamaica & Barbadoes & some other of the West India Islands or in those of our Colonies in North America where it has been Executed.

4^{thly} Because, a Precedent of the two Houses of Parliam^t lending their Power from Motives of Fear or Impatience under a present Uneasiness to Overturn in One Month a Plan of Measures, undertaken with their Warmest Approbation & Concurrence, after the most mature deliberation of two years together, for the Improvement of our Revenue, and the Relief of our People, will effectually discourage all Officers of the Crown in America from doing their Duty, and Executing the Laws of this Kingdom; and is enough to deter future Ministers, in any Circumstances of Distress or Danger to their Country, from Opposing their Fortitude, and Zeal for the Service of the Publick to strong Combinations of Private and Particular Interests, to the Clamour of Multitudes or to the Malice of Factions; which must necessarily bring on such a Weakness and Pusillanimity in the Administration of Government as will soon end in the Downfall and Ruin of the State.

Lastly. Because, the Repeal of this Law, under the present Circumstances, Will We fear, not only Surrender the Honor & essential Interests of the Kingdom now and forever both at Home & Abroad, but will also deeply Affect the Fundamental Principles of our Constitution. For If we Pass this Bill against our Opinion, from the Threats and Compulsion Publickly Avowed in our Colonies & enforced by the most Unjustifiable means within Great Britain, We disclaim that Legislative Authority over the Subjects, which we own ourselves unable to maintain. If We give our Consent to it here, without a full Conviction, that it is right merely because it has passed the other House, by declining to do our Duty on the most Important Occasion which can ever present itself and where