

yours, and that they are persuaded of the Necessity of harmonizing as much as possible, in proper Measures for Redress.

This House, upon considering the Acts of Parliament, prepared an humble, dutiful and loyal Petition to his Majesty, setting forth, That it is a fixed and unalterable Principle, in the Nature of Things, and a Part of the very Idea of Property, that whatever a Man hath honestly acquired, cannot be taken from him, without his Consent; that this immutable Principle is ingrafted, as a fundamental, into the English Constitution, and is declared, by Magna Charta, and the Petition and Bill of Rights, and from thence every British Subject, the most distant, is justly intitled to all the Rights of Englishmen; that this Right is further declared and confirmed by our Charter; under the Confidence whereof our Forefathers encountered every Difficulty, to settle this Colony, which, under Providence, has increased his Majesty's Subjects, extended the Trade, and added to the Wealth of the Mother-Country; That we have always been permitted to enjoy this Right, until lately; that we are not, nor can we ever be effectually represented in the British Parliament; and that these Statutes do, in our Apprehension, infringe the great fundamental Principle, that no Man can be taxed, but with his own Consent, given by himself or his Representative. This, Sir, is the Substance of our Petition, and I am ordered to transmit it to Charles Garth, Esq; special Agent for our House of Delegates, to be presented, and we shall request him to co-operate with yours, and the other Colony Agents, in endeavouring to procure us Relief, and hope with you, his Majesty's great Goodness of Heart will incline him to receive the dutiful Supplications of his remote Subjects with Favour and Attention.

Just before the Close of our Session, we received a Message from our Governor, a Copy of which you have herewith; and also a Copy of the Address by our House, in Answer thereto, which will fully convey to you their Sentiments on the Subject.

I am, in the Name,
and by Order of the House of Representatives,
Sir, with great Respect,
your most humble and obedient Servant,
Robert Lloyd, Speaker.