

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

If you have not a more perfect Account of the late public Transactions in this City, than is contained in the following Copy of a Letter to a Gentleman in London, you are at Liberty to publish it in your Paper, from your humble Servant,

New-York, Nov. 7, 1765.

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Copy of a Letter to a Gentleman in London.

AS soon as it was known in America, that the Stamp Act had passed, and that our remonstrances and petitions against it had not even been heard or presented, as being thought seditious and insolent, though they contained nothing but assertions of our undoubted rights, in the most soft and dutiful terms we could devise—As soon as this shocking act was known, it fill'd all British America, from one End to the other, with astonishment and grief. We saw that as cruel a decree was gone out against us, as passed in the days of King Ahasuerus, against the Jews. We saw that we, and our Posterity were sold for slaves, and doubted not but some wicked Haman was at the bottom of it—tho' he is not yet brought to condign punishment, nor certainly known. A considerable time we lay in silent consternation, and knew not what to do!—We seem'd to be in a frightful Dream; we could hardly be convinced of the dreadful Reality—We consider'd the act over and over—it was framed with the most deep laid inveterate design for the entire Extirpation of liberty in America—every avenue to elusion was barred up with a tenfold guard—*The glorious uncertainty of the law*, in this act, had no place—the meaning was dreadfully evident, and slavery, with all its terrible train, fenced us in on every side.—We knew not what to say or write—even our presses almost ceased to utter the language of liberty—At last by degrees we began to recollect our scatter'd thoughts. The spirit of liberty inform'd the Press—One or two well-judged pieces set our privileges in a clear and striking light; as soon as they were seen and known, they were claimed and asserted; as soon as the latent sparks of patriotism began to kindle, it flew like lightning from breast to breast—it flow'd from every tongue and pen and press, till it had diffused itself thro' every part of the British dominions in America; it united us all, we seem'd to be animated by one spirit, and that was a spirit of liberty—The instruments for putting the act in execution were odious every where, ashamed, and afraid to show their faces; some honorably refused the unsolicited odious offices, others were forced to resign with ignominy—Those who were thought to be favourers of the act, or officious in carrying it into execution, underwent some terrible effects of public resentment, in Boston and Newport; and in Connecticut, the stampman was forced with a high hand to resign—so that no where to the eastward was there the least probability of the stamp act's gaining admittance. Commissioners from almost all the colonies had held a congress at New-York, to agree upon and send home such remonstrances, petitions, &c. as might be thought proper to obtain a repeal of the stamp act—But whatever might be the result of their proceedings, the generality of the friends to liberty, did not choose that it should ever once be thought that the enjoyment of their rights depended merely upon the success of these representations or the courtesy of those to whom they were made.

As New-York was the place of most immediate intercourse with the English ministry, a place of considerable military force—where the General held his head quarters, and where there was a fort of some strength, before which several men of war were stationed—all the neighbouring colonies were anxiously concerned for, and observant of the conduct of the people of New-York—They were the more concerned, because the gentleman who had without his own knowledge been appointed stamp-master, had honourably resigned, and so no public stir or com-