



To the PRINTER.

Looking over Shakepear's HENRY VIII I felt a singular Pleasure in reading one of the Scenes, which I thought peculiarly suited to the present Circumstances of our most gracious Sovereign's American Subjects.— As it is a Part of the English History, and shews the Success of the People's Application for Relief from a burthensome Tax, or "trimming Contribution," to a Measure in all Respects much superior to HIM, who now sits the British Throne, it may be agreeable to your Readers, to have it inserted in your Gazette. Your's, A. B.

SCENE IV.

Flourish Enter King HENRY, leaning on the Cardinal's shoulder; the Nobles and Sir Thomas Lovel; the Cardinal places him self under the King's feet, on his right side.

KING. My life itself, and the best heart of it, Thanks you for this great care. I stood 'till I fell.

Of a full charge's confed'raey, and give thanks To you that chose it. Let it call'd before us That gentleman of Buckingham's in person, I'll hear him his contentions justify. And point by point the treasons of his majesty He shall again relate.

Lord Chamberlain says, Room for the Queen. Enter the Queen, she kneels. The King riseth from his state, takes her up, kisses and placeth her by him.

QUEEN. Nay, we must longer kneel, I am a sutor.

KING. Arise, and take place by us; half your suit Never name to us; you have half our power; The other moiety ere you ask is given; Repeat your will and take it.

QUEEN. Thank your Majesty. That you would love yourself, and in that love Not unconsider'd leave your honour, nor The dignity of your office, is the point Of my petition.

QUEEN. I am solicited, not by a few, And those of true condition, that your subjects A singular grievance. There have been commissions Set down among 'em, who'll have swallow'd the heart Of all their loyalties; wherein although (To Wolsey. (My good lord Cardinal) they vent reproaches Most unbecomingly on you as putter on Of these exactions; yet the King our master (whose honour heav'n shield from foil) escapes not Language unmannerly; yea such which breaks The ties of loyalty, and almost appears In loud rebellion.

NOBLE. Not almost appears, It doth appear; for upon these taxations The clothier— all, not able to maintain The many to them longing, have put off The spinners, carders, fullers, weavers, who Unfit for other life, compell'd by hunger And lack of other means, are all in uproar, And danger serves among them.

KING. Taxation? Wherein? and what taxation? my lord Cardinal, You that are blam'd for it alike with us, Know you of this taxation?

WOLSEY. Please you, Sir, I know but of a single part in ought Pertains to th' state, and front but in that file Where others tell steps with me.

QUEEN. No, my lord, You know no more than others; but you frame Things that are known alike, which are not whollome To those which would not know them, and yet must Perforce be their acquaintance. These exactions (Whereof my sovereign would have note) they are Most pestilent to th' hearing; and to bear 'em, The back is sacrifice to th' load; they say, They are devis'd by you, or else you suffer Too hard an exclamation.

KING. Still exaction! The nature of it, in what kind let's know In this exaction!

QUEEN. I am much too ignorant In computing of your patience, but am pleas'd Under your promis'd pardon. The business Comes through commissions, which cannot be done Without delay; and the pressure for this Is your war in France. This should have caus'd To your self split their duties bet, and not have All done by them: All their hearts were set Like where their prayers did; I would I could Would give it quick consideration.

KING. By my life, This is against our pleasure. WOL. And for me, I have no further go in this, than to A single voice, and that not past me, but By learned approbation of the judges. If I'm traduc'd by tongues, which neither know My faculties nor person, yet will be The chronicles of my doing; let me say, 'Tis but the fate of place, and that the best That virtue must go through. If we stand still, in fear, we thus are only Slaves of the state.

KING. Things done well, And with a care, exempt themselves from fear: Things done without example, in such things Are to be fear'd. Have you a petition Of this commission? I believe not any. We must not read our subjects from our laws, And stick them in our will. Sixth part of each! A trembling contribution— why we take Full ev'ry tree, lop, bark, and part o' th' timber; And though we saw it with a roak that backs, The air will drink the sap. To ev'ry country Where this is question'd, send our letters, with Frey pardon to each man that has decess.

I put it to your care. WOL. A word with you. [To Cromwell] Let there be letters writ to ev'ry shire Of the King's grace and pardon: The griev'd commons Hardly conceive of me; let it be sold, That through our intercession, this revokement And pardon comes; I shall anon advise you Further in the proceeding.

NEW-YORK, December 26

ON Saturday night last, between twelve and one o'clock, a large number of armed men went on board the Minerva, Capt. Tillet, and demanded the stamped papers supposed to be on board, belonging to the colony of Connecticut, but were assured they had been delivered into Fort-George; notwithstanding which, they search'd the vessel in every part, and finding none on board, returned without doing any mischief.

The stamps, we hear, are by a military power forced upon the inhabitants of Canada, Nova Scotia, and the new conquered settlements in America, as also upon the Islands where a sufficient military force is maintained to enslave the inhabitants; viz. Jamaica, the Grenades, Barbados and Antigua; and by the same means it may be enforced upon all America, when the military power becomes superior to that of the united colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South-Carolina, and Georgia, as well as several of the Islands, which will never submit to it so long as they have the power of resistance.— [To which we subjoin a pertinent remark of a writer in 1697, viz. "In all ages and parts of the world, a standing army has been the never-failing instrument of enslaving a nation."] BOSTON, December 23.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Barbados, dated November 4th, 1765.

"The cruel stamp-act now begins to stamp away our money. It is an act highly destructive of American liberty, and every loyal patriot ought to enter his protest against it. The furious conduct of the North-Americans on this occasion, [Turn to the fourth Page.]