

your salvation with fear & trembling; "for why? "knowing that it is he who worketh in us to will & to do," & that it is of his own "good pleasure". Amen! —

New York, January 20th 1765

Some of the Blessings of Military Law, or
The Insolence of Governor Gage. — H
To the Inhabitants of South Carolina —

It has often been observed that with all the plausible pretences to Protection & Defence, a standing Army is the most dangerous Enemy to the Liberties of a Nation that can be thought of. No Prince, no Minister has ever made an attempt upon the Rights of a People until he found himself at the head of an Army to put his Enterprise into execution. Standing Armies have enslaved the whole human Race. It is much better with a well regulated Militia to run the risque of a foreign Invasion than with a standing Army to run the risque of Slavery.

It is contrary to nature, the instance cannot be given in which the people have uniformly arose against & continued to assist good & equitable Government. When an Army is sent to enforce Laws, it is always an Evidence that either the Law makers are conscious that they had no clear and indisputable right to make those laws or that they are bad & oppressive. Wherever the People themselves have had

an hand in making Laws according to the first principles of our Constitution there is no danger of Non-submission. Nor can there be need of an Army to enforce them. A Consciousness of oppression is therefore proclaimed by the very action of sending Troops to America. The late Insolence of Governor Gage is a sufficient instance to prove the danger of Military Governors. such treatment of so venerable a Body of Men as compose that Council is hardly parallel'd in History. They come — they hasten at once to congratulate his safe arrival in the Government, & to do him the honor to express their sanguine hopes from his Wisdom & Goodness: they only hint their complaints of his Predecessor, they are stoped short in the midst of their speech — they are sent away with Contempt.

The Memory of those dark & cruel Assassins is so sacred that it must not be mentioned but with veneration.

Where is the instance in which any Prince on the Throne has so treated the Congratulations of his meanest Vassals?

Is this the manner in which the most honorable Board in a Province is to be treated, if they only presume to complain of past grievances? It is difficult to tell whether this savours most of brutality or Tyranny. But when I read the Proclamation of 29th June 1774, I fancy myself transported into the Regions of Natalia & that I hear the Arbitrary Mandator of some Turkish Bashaw. I think the

Man is either ignorant of the first principles of Law, or he
 must have it in command to provoke this oppressed People
 to blood. But what is their crime? Why after they have been
 violently stripped of all their Ancient Privileges — the property
 of a whole City little better than confiscated without a trial —
 A province robbed of their Charter, their lives laid at the
 Mercy of a bloody Soldier, when every principle of Law & of
 common humanity would vindicate their taking up Arms —
 their only crime is that they enter into a peaceable Agree-
 =ment among themselves that they will no more traffic
 with those People who are trying to enslave them. If it be
 indeed a Truth that Englishmen are bound to suffer all that
 is laid upon them without pursuing any method for redress,
 if we must first be put upon the neck, then be gagged least
 we should complain; if it be treason to determine what
 goods we will buy & what not, then the Governor is in the
 right. But to every reasonable Man a non importation
Agreement comes recommended with this confessed
 Advantage, that it is a peaceable, a constitutional as
well as effectual Measure. General Gage is the first
 Man who has ever disputed the right that an Englishman
 has to choose whether he will buy or not buy any kind
 of goods. But if I have a right to refuse buying British goods —
 I have a right to agree not to buy them — if I have a right

to agree; I have also a right to subscribe such an agreement.

But as if determined to force the People into a war, or oblige them meanly to submit not only to hold their tongues, nor so much as complain of their Oppressions, but to the Slavery of buying British Goods whether they will or not. He issues a proclamation accusing them of unlawful, hostile, treasonable Combinations, & threatening almost half a Million of free born Subjects with the pains due to treason & Rebellion if they dare to enter into such resolutions. This I think is designed as a precedent for all America. But let me ask that redoubtable Baskin at the head of his five regiments & park of 18 Cannon: What Law have this People broke by their Agreements? Where are the sundry Statutes made and provided to prevent Englishmen from resolving not to buy British Manufactures? Shall we suspect that his Excellency is mean enough to lie to impose upon the Populace?

Or does he imagine that at the head of that despicable Phalanx, he has a right to make Laws for a whole Continent, by which our eating & drinking shall be treason, rebellion, & any other higher Crime? If we are to be intimidated by every Threat of a Governor we are come to a fine pass.

If we should be so rash as to resolve that we will drink no more Tea, according to that omnipotent Lawmaker, we shall be considered as the declared open Enemies of the King,

Parliament & Nation — his meaning no doubt is that we shall be hanged and burnt accordingly. But if this paper ever comes into the hands of that petty Tyrant, it may only hint to him, that there is not a Boy of 14 in his Province but understands his rights better than to be imposed upon by such an Artifice — & that although the Nation in its present short fit of the Apoplexy may uphold him in the stopping up of Boston harbour — yet he mistakes if he thinks the Nation will support him in the Execution of his Turkish Edicts; nor will they prostitute their Blood & Treasure to enforce any laws which Thomas Gage shall please to enact in his fancied Omnipotence. The reason why the present Ministry preferred Gage to Hutchinson for the Execution of the present plan of Tyranny is plain. The one is a Lawyer & is accustomed to view the Barrier of the Law as unsurmountable. The other is a Soldier & consequently by profession has an high Opinion of the Sword. The Instruments of Oppression must be fit for the purpose. He may go as far as Law allows, he goes farther at his peril. — HP

A Carolinian No. IIII

by William Tennent. —