

consistent with their liberty? Have they any security that it will be employed only for their good. Such a security is absolutely necessary. Parliaments are not infallible: They are not always just. The members, of whom they are composed, are human; and, therefore, they may err: They are influenced by interest; and, therefore, they may deviate from their duty. The acts of the body must depend upon the opinions and dispositions of the members: The acts of the body may, then, be the result of error, and of vice. It is no breach of decency to suppose all this: The British Constitution supposes it: "It supposes that Parliaments may betray their trust, and provides, as far as human wisdom can provide, that they may not be able to do so long, without a sufficient control."* Without provisions for this purpose, the temple of British liberty, like a structure of ice, would instantly dissolve before the fire of oppression and despotic sway.

It will be very material to consider the several securities, which the inhabitants of Great-Britain have, that their liberty will not be destroyed by the legislature, in whose hands it is entrusted. If it shall appear, that the same securities are not enjoyed by the Colonists; the undeniable consequence will be, that the Colonists are not under the same obligations to entrust their liberties into the hands of the same legislature: For the Colonists are entitled to *all* § the privileges of Britons. We have committed no crimes to forfeit them: We have too much spirit to resign them. We will leave our posterity as free as our ancestors left us.

To give to any thing that passeth in Parliament the force of a law, the consent of the King, of the Lords, and of the Commons † is absolutely necessary ‡. If, then, the inhabitants of Great-Britain possess a sufficient restraint upon

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* Dissert. on parties. Let. 11. 12.

§ As the law is the birthright of every subject, so wheresoever they go, they carry their laws with them. 2. WILLIAM's reports. 75.

† The Commons of England have a great and considerable right in the Government; and a share in the Legislature without whom no law pass. Lord RAYMOND's reports. 950.

‡ 4. Institute. 25.