

SHOULD any one object here, that it does not reside in the House of Commons *only*, because that House cannot make laws without the consent of the King and of the Lords; the answer is easy. Though the concurrence of all the branches of the Legislature is necessary to every law; yet the same laws bind different persons for different reasons, and on different principles. The King is bound, because he assented to them. The Lords are bound, because they voted for them. The Representatives of the Commons, for the same reason, bind themselves, and those whom they represent.

IF the Americans are bound neither by the assent of the King, nor by the votes of the Lords to obey Acts of the British Parliament, the *sole* reason, why they are bound, is, because the representatives of the Commons of Great-Britain have given their suffrages in favour of those Acts.\* But are the Representatives of the Commons of Great Britain the Representatives of the Americans? Are they elected by the Americans? Are they such as the Americans, if they had the power of election, would probably elect? Do they know the interest of the Americans? Does their own interest prompt them to pursue the interest of the Americans? If they do not pursue it, have the Americans power to punish them? Can the Americans remove unfaithful members at every new election? Can members, whom the Americans do not elect; with whom the Americans are not connected in interest; whom the Americans cannot remove; over whom the Americans have no influence.—Can such Members be styled, with any propriety, the magistrates of the Americans? Have those, who are bound by the laws of magistrates not their own, any security for the enjoyment of their absolute rights—those rights, “ which every man is entitled to enjoy, whether in society or out of it?” || Is it probable that those rights will be maintained? Is it “ the primary end of  
C 2 government

\* This is allowed even by the advocates for parliamentary power; who account for its extension over the Colonies upon the very absurd principle of their being *virtually* represented in the House of Commons.

|| Blackstone, 123.