

Student Name Here
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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: PATRIOT OR LOYALIST?

The spirit with which you have of late opposed the stamp act, shews, that you have taken upon you, to think something of affairs. Go on my friends and inquire further: It is the proper business of every man, who is governed by laws, to study into the nature of those laws; and wherever he finds an error, point it out, in order for amendment. I beg of you go on, and inquire into the constitution and economy of this government: And if your rights and liberties are invaded, study what measures you must take for redress; and be, (as you were in the late case of the stamp act) united to those measures, and you are morally certain of success and remedy. The method you have taken to put a stop to the stamp act, (however exploded by some designing persons) are, for aught I know, the only method to oppose despotism. But if all your conduct in opposing that hateful act of parliament cannot be approved of, some part of it may, without just offence to anybody, viz, your giving particular instructions to your respective representatives, how to act on that matter. And if this practice should take place in general throughout this government, with respect to the common and ordinary business of government, it might relieve us from (near or quite) as great a tax, as the stamp act would have been, had it taken place, which no doubt will be obvious to you all, if you will inquire into the common and ordinary conduct of our own general court, in years past; for as a secret I can tell you, that all our oppressors are not on the other side the Atlantic.

Within a few years past, (as I have been informed) it hath been a practice of some person or persons, to draw money out of the public treasury of this province, without a vote or the

consent of the house of representatives for so doing. And it hath also been a practice of our general court, to make very large grants of our money, and property, to particular persons, which was as dissatisfactory, (in the time of it) to many of you, as it would be to you now, to have the stamp act take place. And if any should ask, what grants those were, it may be answered, the grant made to the honorable Edmond Trowbridge, Esq: of about a Thousand Dollars, to make up the letter he had sustained by being in the office of attorney general; and there is not the least doubt, but that he took that office for sake of the profits of it, and that the profits are adequate to the service, or a man of his understanding would never have taken it, and kept it, so long as he has done; for there is no penalty for refusing to serve as an attorney. And other grants of large sums made to Thomas Goldhwait, Esq: Secretary of war so called, an office quite new and unknown before, and of our G--r's coining, which made way for a grant to adjutant general Brattle, who, the court thought in justice ought to have one, as he had before served longer and to great Acceptance in the same business, though' not with the same title, & had neither charged or received one farthing therefor. And also several grants in money & land to the value of several hundred pounds, made to the hon. Timo. Ruggles, Esq; for serving the province in the office of brigadier-general, &c. for which his wages was £ 30 L. M. per month; and he very gratefully rewards the province by charging only a Guinea per day for his time, in going to New York to the late Congress; (but to the honor of the present court, be it spoken, they did not allow his account) but however, he charged about eighty or ninety pounds for about a month's expense, to support that delightful charmer, political dignity. Another grant the general court very generously made to each of the members of the court of a new law-book at the public expense. But the most extraordinary of all grants is, the granting such extravagant fees to particular offices as are now established by the present fee table.