

soon go to destruction, this identical company, is just a going,—and unless we shall, in great kindness, part with our liberties, to save them from bankruptcy, they are gone—for ever! It is certainly a great pity that they cannot be saved,—upon easier terms: For, it seems, that if the company fails, the nation must fall; and if the nation fall, we fall of course; so that the only method by which we can expect to keep on our feet, is by sailing at once, giving up our freedom,—that vain bubble,—and buying English tea, with its paltry Three Penny duty; by which means, we shall save the company, who will save the nation, who, probably, may take it into their heads to save us,—by making us free again, for our kindness.

PORTICOLA, has further informed us, that the English tea, as he is pleased to call it, is much better than the Dutch tea, though he has not been so kind as to tell us, why it is better, since they are both shipped at Canton, in China. It may chance, that tea, like Madeira Wine, grows better by sweating several years, in a warehouse.

“But it is said, That your liberties are in danger, if you touch a grain of the accused English tea.” Indeed they are so Mr. PORTICOLA, and let us hear what you have to say to the contrary? You tell us, that the Revenue Act is repealed, though you know that to be false! It is a shameful falsehood; and you would have us risque every thing that is dear to us, as men, upon a story, which yourself do not believe; a story, upon which you dare not risque a single Guinea of your fortune! Such Advocates are a shame to decency, and virtue.

The late Act of Parliament does not so much as mention the American Revenue Act. It absolves the East-India company from all duties and customs whatever with which they had been charged when they imported tea, or when they might reship that tea, and nothing more. It does not extend beyond the Port in England. The company never had been charged with our Revenue Act, and therefore could not be discharged from it. That execrable Act, was made for our sole emolument,—the Three Penny duty is not due till the tea is landed in America,—but then it becomes due with a vengeance,—if we are so tame as to suffer it.

Strange it is, That a Gentleman, who has resided so long in this city, should take the inhabitants for perfect Idiots! The East-India company, don't pretend to say, that the Revenue Act is repealed. Everyone of our Captains, refused to bring their tea to America, because the Revenue Act continues in full force! This was their sole objection, and no member of the company, pretended to remove that objection; they were better acquainted with the subject. But the tools of power, are generally more impudent, as well as more ignorant, than their masters. They presume, that any thing will be swallowed, on this side the water.

“Theory and speculation aside,” says the modest PORTICOLA, “If the Commissioners of the Customs discuss all demand of duties on the tea, being landed and sold here,—what then! why surely the Revenue Act is repealed, and no duties are to be paid. Now Mr. PORTICOLA, I humbly presume, that a man is too wicked to deserve that protection and security which you speak of, who is capable of abusing his fellow citizens by such abominable Sophistry! You know very well, that the duties are nominally to be paid in England, for a few months, until our suspicions are a sleep! You know, that to save appearances, the Collectors of the Customs will be desired not to demand the duties in America. Security is given by the India company, that the duties will be paid into the Exchequer, where the surplus of the American duty is, by the Revenue Act, to be deposited. The Commissioners, will draw bills on the Exchequer, for so much of it as will pay the salaries, to be paid in America, out of the duties, and the factors, for the sale of the tea in America, will include the duties in the price of the tea; so that, the consumers, will ultimately pay the duty, as effectually as if the duty was paid in America, by the Importers.” And the same ends will be secured to the Ministry; and the same evils entailed on the Americans.”

PORTICOLA knows this to be truth, and that several merchants in London, have advertised their correspondents, of this intended juggle; and yet he has the effrontery to attempt persuading us, that no duties are to be paid. However, lest we should not be gulled by this trick, PORTICOLA concludes his Essay, with an argument which is a perfect curiosity in its way. I presume we may take it for the sentiments of every Person who is for imposing English tea, in the present situation of public affairs.

He tells us, in fact, that the Acts of Parliament, good, or bad, we must submit. For, “the exercise of force, contrary to law, is opposite to every idea of civil government.” We are “to know our rights by the laws.” They are to be the rule of our actions. Hence, far hence, be every opposition to the civil Magistrate, or to his laws, be he a Negro, or a CAIROUA. It follows of course, that there is no further occasion, to enquire about the Revenue Act; whether it be repealed, or not, we must take matters as we find them. Obedience is our duty. Thus thinks your friend, PORTICOLA, and to be sure, he further thinks, that the Barons, who opposed King John, and obtained the Magna Charta, were rebels. That the Patriots, so called, who sent King James, a packing to another country, and brought about the memorable Revolution, were nothing but a pack of rebels; and I have some conjectures, that, if the duties tea, should be sent to this place, he will presently think, that the New-Yorkers, have not lost all the blood and temper, of their ancestors.

I am, Your Fellow Subject.
A TRADESMAN.

New-York, November 13, 1773.

TO THE

Freeholders & Freemen

OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF

New-York.

BRETHREN,

WHILE the enemies of our country endeavour by chicanery and false reports, circulated in private, to sap the foundations of Liberty; they are a dangerous set of creatures, because they cannot be answered! But, whenever they condescend to appear in public, they give full proof, that the cause of oppression, is both weak and wicked. I shall take the late production of PORTICOLA, for a proof of this assertion, let us review that curious essay.

In the first paragraph, we are very judiciously informed, that every true patriot, regards the general interest of society. We are then told, that commerce is of great use to states. That the French think so, the Dutch think so too, and strange it is, the English also think so; wherefore they have commissioned an East-India company,—which method of carrying on trade, by monopoly, is evidently the best contrivance imaginable; because a few men ingross the profits, and what is still more kind in them, they rescue all the rest of the nation, from the trouble of that business. He kindly grants, that the aforesaid company, is not quite free from imperfection; but still it preserves for us the balance of power: It is the strength,—perhaps he meant the Bull Work—of the nation; for it seems, this same company, without which, to be sure the East-India trade cannot be carried on, and without which our nation would