

An Impartial.

RELATION

OF THE

First Rise and Cause

OF THE

RECENT DIFFERENCES,

IN

PUBLICK AFFAIRS,

In the Province of *North-Carolina*; and of the past *Tumults* and *Riots* that lately happened in that Province.

Containing most of the true and genuine Copies of Letters, Messages and Remonstrances, between the Parties contending:— By which any impartial Man may easily get and see the true Ground and Reasons of the Dissatisfaction that universally reigns all over the Province in a more or less Degree.

Printed for the Compiler, 1770.

T O T H E

R E A D E R .

TH E Author does not think it necessary to set his Name to this Work, as it contains Copies of such Letters and Papers that passed between the Parties at Difference, with Minutes of what passed at several Courts, in View and Hearing of the Publick; and other Matters of Fact, that are so well known in that Province (for whose use it is chiefly designed) that the Truth of the Whole, I presume, cannot be attempted at to be denied. But if it should happen otherwise, this I am sure of, that I never can be convicted in myself of wilfully or knowingly either to have concealed or set forth one Untruth. And likewise, that I have been so well acquainted with the whole Affair, that I think no one Man in the Province

Province could give a better Relation of the Matter.

It would exceed the Bounds of what I could be able to pay for Printing to give a Copy of all the Papers, as there were so many Persons on each Side employed in Writing, and addressing the Inhabitants, in order to gain the strongest Party. But such, and so many of them as were signed by, and in the Name of the Body of the People, who assembled in publick Council, and such as were written to them again by publick Authority, I have not omitted any that I could procure the Copies of. And such as I heard of, but could not procure the Copies, I have mentioned in their Order.

I shall add no farther Preface or Apology to this Work, but submit the same, in Confidence that my Aim is the Good of all, and every honest Man, and the Detection of Hypocrites and Rogues of the worst Sort, who rob and plunder Provinces, under Colour of Law and Authority, to administer Justice.

An Impartial
RELATION
OF THE
First Rise and Cause

OF THE
Present Differences in Publick
Affairs in the Province of *North-*
Carolina, &c.

IN *Orange* County the first Disturbance is generally ascribed to have arisen; but *Granville* and *Hallifax* Counties were deeply engaged in the same Quarrel many Years before *Orange*: So that it may be necessary to give a few Paragraphs out of some of their Papers, to shew, that it was the same Grievance and Oppression that incensed all the Counties, without corresponding with each other. — For though *Granville* County had been at War, as it were, some Years before the Disturbance in *Orange*, yet we never heard of it till it broke out in *Orange*.

The

The Paragraphs in the *Granville* Paper runs as follow,

“ A serious Address to the Inhabitants of *Granville*
“ le County, containing a brief Narrative of
“ our deplorable Situation by the Wrongs we
“ suffer,——
“ And some necessary Hints, with respect to a
“ Reformation.

“ *Save my Country, Heavens, shall be my last.*
Pope.

Then, after treating on the Nature of Law in general, and of our Constitution, in Praise of it, he proceeds thus.——

“ Well, Gentlemen, it is not our Form or Mode of Government, nor yet the Body of our Laws that we are quarreling with, but with the Malpractices of the Officers of our County Court, and the Abuses that we suffer by those that are empowered to manage our publick Affairs: This is the Grievance, Gentlemen, that demands our serious Attention.———And I shall,

“ Thirdly, Shew the notorious and intolerable Abuses that has crept into the Practice of the Law, in this County, and I doubt not but into other Counties also; though that does not concern us. In the first Place, there is a Law that provides that a Lawyer shall take no more than Fifteen Shillings for their Fee in the County Court.———Well, Gentlemen, which of you has had your Business done for Fifteen Shillings? They exact Thirty for every Cause: And Three——— Four——— and Five Pounds * for every Cause attended with the least Difficulty, and laugh at us for our Stupidity and tame Submission to these D—m—d, &c.”

Another

* *Their Fees in our Superior Courts is almost as many Hundreds.*

Another Paragraph runs thus in Substance.

“ A poor Man is supposed to have given his Judgment Bond for Five Pounds ; and this Bond is by his Creditor thrown into Court.——The Clerk of the County has to enter it on the Docket, and issue Execution, the Work of one long Minute, for which the poor Man has to pay him the trifling Sum of Forty-one Shillings and Five-pence.——The Clerk, in Consideration he is a poor Man, takes it out in Work, at Eighteen-pence a Day.——The poor Man works some more than Twenty-seven Days to pay for this one Minute’s Writing.

“ Well, the poor Man reflects thus,——At this Rate, when shall I get to Labour for my Family ? I have a Wife and Parcel of small Children suffering at Home, and here I have lost a whole Month, and I don’t know for what ; for my Merchant is as far from being paid yet as ever.——However, I will go Home now, and try and do what I can.——Stay, Neighbour, you have not half done yet,——there is a D——d Lawyer’s Mouth to stop yet ;——for you impowered him to confess that you owed this Five Pounds, and you have Thirty Shillings to pay him for that, or go and work nineteen Days more ; and then you must work as long to pay the Sheriff for his Trouble ; and then you may go home and see your Horses and Cows sold, and all your personal Estate, for one Tenth Part of the Value, to pay off your Merchant. And lastly, if the Debt is so great, that all your personal Estate will not do to raise the Money, which is not to be had,——then goes your Lands the same way to satisfy these cursed hungry Caterpillars, that will eat out the very Bowels of our Common-wealth, if they are not pulled down from their Nests in a very short time.——And what Need, I say, to urge a Reformation.——If these Things were absolutely according

to Law, it were enough to make us throw off all Submission to such tyrannical Laws; for were such Things tolerated, it would rob us of the Means of Living; and it would be better to die in Defence of our Privileges than to perish for want of the Means of Subsistence.——But as these Practices are contrary to Law, it is our Duty to put a Stop to them before they quite ruin our County, or that we become willing Slaves to these lawless Wretches, and hug our Chains of Bondage, and remain contented under these accumulated Calamities.

“ Oh, Gentlemen, I hope better Things of you.——I believe there are few of you but has felt the Weight of those Iron Filts.——And I hope there are none of you but will lend a Hand towards bringing about this necessary Work; and in order to bring it about ~~effectually~~, we must proceed with Circumspection; ~~not fearful~~, but careful.

“ 1st. Let us be careful to keep sober,——nor do nothing rashly,——but act with Deliberation.

“ 2dly. Let us do nothing against the known established Laws of our Land, that we appear not as a Faction, endeavouring to subvert the Laws, and overturn the System of our Government;——but let us take Care to appear what really we are, Free Subjects by Birth, endeavouring to recover our lost native Rights, of reducing the Malpractices of the Officers of our Court down to the Standard of our Law.”

This Paper was large, and deserved to have been printed at Length, but my Ability would not afford it.——It was dated, “ *Nutbush, Granville County, the 6th of June, Anno Dom. 1765.*”

And tho’ it was the adjacent County to *Orange*, yet the first that ever we heard of it was in 1767, at our *August* Court, after we had tried to plead our own Cause at the Bar against Extortion.——Then some Persons who lived adjoining *Granville* Line told us, they feared that Matter would ruin
some

some of us, for that just such a Case had been undertaken in *Granville* County some Years ago, and that they were at Law about it to that Day. And by what I have since learned, the Method they proceeded in was by Petitioning the Legislative Body against the Mal-Practices of the Officers mentioned in the Paragraphs cited.—And thereupon the Officers sued the Subscribers for a Libel; indicted the Author of the Paper, and imprisoned him: Which Law-Suits have remained to this Day.

There were other Counties, such as *Brumswick*, *Cumberland*, and some more, had wholly Declined paying Taxes as early as 1766, if not before, as nearly as I could collect Accounts;—but the Government made no noise about all this till *Orange* could no longer be kept quiet,—who never had knowledge of the Dissatisfaction of these Counties; so that the Thing did not spread by Industry of any in propagating or Communicating the Grievances, but the same Cause naturally produced the same Effect.

But now I shall drop other Counties and begin with *Orange*, having, as I said before, as perfect a knowledge of the whole Proceedings as any one Man in the Province.

Sometime in the latter Part of Summer, in the Year 1766, at an Inferior Court in the County of *Orange*, a Paper was presented and read to the Representatives and Magistrates of the County, as follows, viz.

No. I.

“ **W**HEREAS that great Good may come of this Great designed Evil, the Stamp Law, while the Sons of Liberty withstand the Lords in Parliament, in Behalf of true Liberty, Let not Officers under them carry on unjust Oppression in our own Province; in order thereto, as there is many Evils of that Nature complained of in this County of *Orange* in private amongst the Inhabitants, Therefore, let us remove them;— —

or if there is no cause, let us remove the Jealousies out of our Minds.——Honest Rulers in Power will be glad to see us examine this Matter freely——And certainly there is more honest Men among us than Rogues * ; yet Rogues is harboured among us sometimes almost publickly.

“ Every honest Man is willing to give Part of his Substance to support Rulers, and Laws, to save the other Part from Rogues ; and it is his Duty, as well as Right, to see and examine whether such Rulers abuse such trust ;——Otherwise that Part so given may do more Hurt than Good.

“ Even if we were all Rogues, in that Case we could not subsist ; but would be obliged to frame Laws to make ourselves honest.——And the same Reasoning holds good against the Notion of a Mason Club.

“ Thus, though it (meaning Justice) must be desired by all, or the greatest Number of Men, yet when Grievances of such publick Nature are not redressed, the Reason is, every Body's Business is no Body's.——Therefore, the following Proposal is offered to the Publick, *to wit*, Let each Neighbourhood throughout the County meet together, and appoint one or more Men to attend a general Meeting on the *Monday* before next *November* Court, at a suitable Place, where there is no Liquor, (at *Maddock's* Mill, if no Objection ;) at which meeting, let it be judiciously enquired into, Whether the Freemen of this County labour under any Abuses of Power or not ; and let the same be notified in Writing, if any is found, and the Matter freely conversed upon, and Proper Measures used for Amendment.

“ This

* *The Author had in View to carry Elections by the Majority, and was to confute a general prevailing Notion, that the Combination of Rogues, by Means of a Mason Club, was so great, that it was in vain to try to out-vote them at Elections, which was the Method of Redress proposed in Conversation.*

“ This Method will certainly cause the wicked Men in Power to tremble ; and there is no Damage can attend such a Meeting, nor nothing hinder it but a cowardly dastardly Spirit : Which if it does, at this Time, while Liberty prevails, we must mutter and grumble under any Abuses of Power until such a noble Spirit prevails in our Posterity ; For, take this as a Maxim, that while Men are Men, though you should see all those Sons of Liberty (Who has just now Redeemd us, from tyranny) set in Offices, and Vested with Power, they would soon corrupt again and oppress, if they were not called upon to give an Account of their Stewardship.”

This Paper being publickly read at Court, in Audience of our Chiefs, Mr. *Loyd*, one of our Assembly-men, declared his Approbation of it, and the Rest Acknowledged it was reasonable.—And *Loyd*, altered the Day of meeting to the 10th of *October* ; and we being thus encouraged, Several Neighbourhoods held Meetings, and conjunctively Drew up the following Paper.

No. II.

“ **A**T a Meeting of the Neighbourhood of *Deep-River*, the 20th of *August*, 1766.—Unanimously agreed to appoint *W—C—* and *W—M—* to attend at a general Meeting on the 10th of *October* at *Maddock's* Mill, where they are judiciously to examine, whether the Freemen in this County labour under any Abuses of Power, and in particular to examine into the publick Tax, and inform themselves of Every Particular thereof, by what Laws and for what Uses it is laid, in order to Remove some Jealousies out of our Minds.

“ And the Representatives, Vestry-men, and other Officers, are Requested to give the Members of the said Meeting what Information and Satisfaction they can,———So far as they value the Good-will

will of every honest Freeholder, and the executing Publick Offices, pleasant and delightful.”

In Pursuance hereof, about twelve Men met, but none of the Officers appeared (though they had frequently gave out Word beforehand, that they would be there——Late in the Day Mr. *James Watson* came alone, and brought Word from Colonel *Faning*, the other Representative, that he had always intended fully to meet us, till a Day or two ago he observed in one of our Papers the Word judiciously *, which signified, he said, by a Court of Authority :——And had some other Objections, such as the Mill being no suitably Place. And concluding, that, in short (says he) Colonel *Faning* Looks on it as an Insurrection, &c. &c.

Whereupon we, in *Watson's* Presence, drew up the following Paper, and read it to him, Desiring his Judgement; and he said it was so just, and reasonable, that no Man could object to it; which was thus, *to wit.*

No. III.

“ At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of *Orange* County, on the 10th of *October*, 1766, for Conference on publick Affairs with our Representatives, Vestry-men, &c.

“ **I**T was the Judgment of the said Meeting, that, by Reason of the Extent of the County, no one Man in it, in a general way, was known by above one tenth Man of the Inhabitants;—for which Reason, such a meeting for a Publick and and free Conference, yearly, and as often as the Case may require, was absolutely necessary, in Order to reap the Benefit designed us in that
Part

* By what I have learnt since, they pretend to have mistook the word for judicially; but our original Papers were in too many Hands to make it take.

Part of our Constitution of choosing Representatives, and knowing for what uses our Money is called for.——We Also conceive such a Representative would find himself at an infinite Loss to answer the Design of his Constituents, if deprived of consulting their Minds in Matters of Weight and Moment.

“ And whereas, at the said Meeting, none of them appeared (though we think properly acquainted with our Appointment and Requests) yet, as the Thing is somewhat new in this County (though practised in older Governments) they might not have duly considered the Reasonableness of our Requests.

“ We therefore conclude, that if they hereafter are inclinable to answer it, that we will attend them at some other Time and Place, on their giving us proper Notice.

“ It is also our Judgment, that, on further mature Deliberation, the Inhabitants of the County will more generally see the Necessity of such a Conference, and the Number increase in Favour of it, to be continued yearly.”

A Copy of this was given to Mr. *Watson*, on his Approbation of it; and he promised to present each of our Representatives with proper Transcripts;——Which we make not the least Doubt but he complied with.

But, however, instead of complying with our so reasonable Proposals, Colonel *Fanning*, the following Court, or at a general Muster, read a long Piece of Writing in Publick, and among our Justices, in Repugnance to our Request, vaunting himself greatly in his Performance; telling them, he had served us with Copies thereof, and signified it would silence us, or had silenced us: But as to what it contained, I cannot inform the Publick, as we nor any one of us, that ever I could find, ever saw it.

This, with the Menaces thrown out by the
Bomb

Bomb Sheriffs against such as was most active in this Affair, so discouraged the People, that the Affair droped, after we had subscribed to a Sum of Fifty Pounds, in order to commence a Suit at Law against them on the Penal Laws, and was Denied by the only Attorney we had any Hopes of serving us to undertake it.

Some Months after, all was still, there hap-pened to come out a new Collection of the Laws in one Book; two of us took a Copy of the Fees out of it for recording Deeds of Conveyances, and carried it to Court in *August Term, 1767.*—These men offered the customary Fees for the Recording and Proving their Deeds that were taken in other Counties, though that Exceeded the lawful Due; at the same Time offering to pay more if any of them could shew any Law for more.

This was before the Bench, when the Man who spoke was asked, How long it was since he had Commenced Lawyer? But as he did not regard some of the Bench, began to threaten him, for standing in Contempt of the Court; upon which they withdrew.

The Person who had got this Law-Book, being half Owner of it, had it at Court, and it was handed about among the People; which the other Owner knowing of, and he being one of the Bench, and on the Bench at the Time, came immediately out of Court, calling his Partner in the Book to one Side, Desiring him to keep the Knowledge of the Book's being handed about a Secret from the Rest of the Court.—The other Replies, I have given them, that I let have the Book, that Caution alreedy, for I see how Matters stands among you.—Which was, that an honest Man could hardly live among them; for these New Books were so scarce at that Time, that they would have known who had let it out among the People.

Thus we may see how he apprehended himself under

under a Necessity to conceal his good Offices and Honesty to secure himself in Office: But I suppose he was found out; for he was soon after put out of Commission.

The Bombs now grew more and more Insulting, taking Unusual Distresses for Levies; taking double, treble, and four Times the Value; bearing all off to Town. thirty, forty, and sixty Miles, and was remarkably cross, taking By-paths, and other Ways than they had Promised; so that those who followed, may be in a few Hours, to Redeem their Things, could never overtake them.

These Things were all sold in Town at under Rates, and became a constant Trade; so that roguish People began to depend on these Sales to raise them Fortunes.—And as to any Overplus being returned to the Parties, I never could hear of any. Besides, among Dutch People, and such as were ignorant of State Affairs, they practised taking Four-pence, Six-pence, and a Shilling in a Tax, more than from the more Knowing.

The High Sheriff also sent out an insulting Advertisement, which was set up very early in the following Year, *to wit*, 1768, (may be in first of February) as follows.

“ **W**HEREAS, by a late Act of Assembly, the Sheriffs of the several Counties in this Province are obliged to attend at five different Places in their County, at least two Days at each Place, at some Time between the first Day of *January* and the first Day of *March*, in Order to receive the publick County and Parish Taxes.— I hereby inform the County of *Orange*, that I intend to comply with my Duty in attending, according to Law, at Times and Places hereafter to be advertised; and that every Man who fails paying their Dues, at these Times and Places, is, by the same Law, obliged to pay me *Two Shillings and Eight-pence* extraordinary: Which Sum I shall Demand,

Demand, without Respect to Persons. Whereof every one concerned is desired to take Notice.

“ And should any Person imagine, that it is sufficient if they have their Money ready when I or my Deputy comes for it——I advise them to be provided with *Two Shillings and Eight-pence* for the Visit,

From their humble Servant,

TYREE HARRIS.”

Every one could see this was quite insulting, as well as an Attempt to make Asses of us; for no one but had Sense enough to know this new Law was calculated for the Sheriff's Ease.——And instead of being so careful to Word his Advertisement, that “ the Sheriffs were obliged to attend,” he might have said, The Asses were obliged to bring their Burdens to him, in order that one of their Deputies might collect the Whole in ten Days sitting on their Breech, at Ease, in five Places only.

The Rumour of giving the Governor *Fifteen Thousand Pounds*, to build him a House, all happening together at this Time, conspired to give Rise to what was commonly called the Mob; which in a little Time altered to that of the Regulators.

This new Association began in a different Neighbourhood, though they always mentioned and espoused the former; and People had entered into it by Hundreds, and it spread every Way like Fire till it reached *Sandy-Creek*, where the principal Men who were concerned in the Papers No. 1, 2, and 3, lived. There this new Scheme met with some Opposition, on Account that it was too hot and rash, and in some Things not legal. And though the *Sandy-Creek* People endeavoured to shew them the Danger of their Proceedings, yet took Care at the same Time not to kill that Zeal for Justice and true Liberty.——And at the second Meeting they had prevailed with them to form

form new Articles, and censured their First; yet at their first Meeting they had sent a Paper to our Officers; which Paper was approved of, and bears the Name Number V. though dated *March* 22d.

—————The new Articles being adopted at their second Meeting, held on *April* the Fourth, being instead of the first Articles, always bore the Place of the First, which was Number IV. and is as follows, *viz.*

No. IV.

“ **W**E the Subscribers do voluntarily agree to form ourselves into an Association, to assemble ourselves for Conference for Regulating publick Grievances and Abuses of Power, in the following Particulars, with others of the like Nature that may occur.

“ 1st. That we will pay no more Taxes until we are satisfied they are agreeable to Law, and applied to the Purposes therein mentioned; unless we cannot help it, or are forced.

“ 2d, That we will pay no Officer any more Fees than the Law allows, unless we are obliged to it; and then to shew our Dislike, and bear an open Testimoney against it.

“ 3d. That we will attend our Meetings of Conference as often as we conveniently can, and is necessary, in order to consult our Representatives on the Amendment of such Laws as may be found grievous or unnecessary; and to choose more suitable Men than we have done heretofore for Burgeses and Vestry-men; and to petition the Houses of Assembly, Governor, Council, King and Parliament, &c. for Redress in such Grievances as in the Course of the Undertaking may occur; and to inform oneanother, learn, know, and enjoy all the Privileges and Liberties that are allowed and were settled on us by our worthy Antecessors, the Founders of our present Constitution, in Order to preserve it on its ancient Foundation, that it may stand firm and unshaken.

“ 4th. That we will Contribute to Collections for
C defraying

defraying necessary Expences attending the Work, according to our Abilities.

“ 5th. That, in Case of Difference in Judgment, we will Submit to the Judgment of the Majority of our Body.

“ To all which, we Solemnly Swear, or, being a Quaker, or otherwise scrupulous in Conscience of the common Oath, do solemnly Affirm, that we will stand true and faithful to this Cause, till we bring Things to a true Regulation, according to the true Intent and Meaning hereof in the Judgment of the Majority of Us.”

Number Five is as follows, *viz.*

Number V.

“ The 22d. Day of *March*, 1768. ———— The Request of the Inhabitants of the West Side of *Haw-River*, to the Assembly-men and Vestry-men of *Orange County*, *viz.*

“ **W**HEREAS the Taxes in this County are larger, according to the Number of Taxables, than adjacent Counties, and continues so Year after Year; and as the Jealousies still Prevails amongst us, that we are wronged; and having the more Reason to think so, as we have been at the Trouble of choosing Men, and sending them, after the civilest Manner that we could, to know what we paid our Levy for, but could receive no Satisfaction; ———— for *James Watson* was sent to *Maddock's Mill*, and said that *Edmond Fanning* looked on it, that the Country called him by Authority, or like as if they had a Right to call him to an Account. ———— Not allowing the Country the Right that they have been Entitled to, as *English* Subjects; for the King requires no Money from his Subjects but what they are made sensible what use its for.

“ We are obliged to seek Redress by denying paying any more until we have a full Settlement for
for

for what is past, and have a true Regulation with our Officers.

“ As our Grievances are too many to be notified in a small Piece of Writing, we desire that you, our Assembly-men and Vestry-men, may appoint a Time, before next Court, at the Court-House, and let us know by the Bearer, and we will Choose Men to act for us, and settle our Grievances.

“ Until such time as you will settle with us, we desire the Sheriffs will not come this Way to collect the Levy ; for we will pay none before there is a Settlement to our Satisfaction.

“ And as the nature of an Officer is a Servant to the Publick, we are determined to have the Officers of this County under a better and honest-er Regulation than they have been for some time past.

“ Think not to frighten us (with Rebellion) in this Case, for if the Inhabitants of this Province have not as good a Right to Enquire into the Nature of our Constitution, and Disbursements of our Funds, as those of our Mother Country, ——— we think that, it is by arbitrary Proceedings that we are debarred of that Right. ——— Therefore, to be plain with you, it is our Intent to have a full Settlement of You in every particular Point that is Matter of Doubt with Us. ——— So fail not to send an Answer by the Bearer. If no answer, we shall take it for granted, that we are disregarded in this our Request again from the Publick.”

This was the first Message this new Society sent our Officers : But no Masters of abject Slaves could be more exasperated ;— they were Rebels, Insurgents, &c. to be shot, hang'd, &c. as mad Dogs. &c.—And the *Sandy-Creek* Men, or Authors of No. 1, 2, and 3, were to be punished for it all ; for these refers to their former Papers. ——— Now as they were so ignorant as actually to imprison, and went through a Course of Law to make the Au-
thors

thors of the first Papers culpable for these last, I will observe, the latter had a Right to refer to the former, because they had concurred and joined in the former, but that by no Means made all them who were concerned in the former, and scarcely had heard of the latter, to be anyways culpable
 ————— *Indians* now-a-days know this Distinction, that where a few bad People of a Nation commit Outrages, the Whole is not blamable. However hard this Distinction might have been to our Officers to conceive, I know it was the easiest and naturalest of all Things to be felt by the Parties.

And further, because they stiled themselves Inhabitants of the West Side of *Haw-River*, therefore the whole Body of the Inhabitants, on the West Side, was so treated, that I can venture to say, that though not one third Man on the West Side had yet concerned themselves, yet they were afterwards forced to join as one Man in Defence of their Lives.

On the whole, I do not think it needful to take much Pains to shew this Distinction, for my Opinion is, our Officers Spleen against the Authors of former Papers was for that very Reason, that they were pursuing a legal and constitutional Plan to be redressed: As also, when it came to be tried in the Law, the Distinction was as clear as the Day, and punished none but them who were actually Guilty.

I have said thus much on this Head, the more as I observe by the News-Papers, that Men in higher Stations than our Officers attempted the same Thing on the Town of *Boston*.

So to proceed in Order, ————— On the said 4th of *April*, 1768, after the Articles were altered, and both Parties joined on the former Plan,

Plan, they drew up the following Paper, viz.

No. VI.

“ **A**T a General Meeting, of the * Regulators, held *April* the 4th, 1768, it was agreed to send P—— C—— and J—— L——, to request the two late Sheriffs and our Vestry-men, to meet twelve Men that we shall choose on the Tuesday after next Court, to Produce to them a Copy of the List of Taxables for each Year and a List of the Number and Names of of the Insolvents returned each Year, with an Account how the Money was applied, to whom paid, and to what Uses, both Vestry-men and Sheriffs, and to request our Representatives to confer with them in our Behalf, and shew us Law for the customary Fees that has been taken for Deeds, Indentures, Administrations, &c. If the Time appointed don't suit them, let them appoint another more suitable.”

Before these two Men had Time to perform this Message, the Officers, either to try or exasperate the now enraged Populace, took, by way of Distress, a Mare, Saddle and Bridle, for one Levy,—and they immediately rose to the Number of Sixty or Seventy, and rescued the Mare,—and fired a few Guns at the Roof of Colonel *Fanning's* House, to signify they blam'd him for all this Abuse.

The Paper No. 6. was then delivered to the established Minister of the County, who undertook to try to accommodate the Matter; who, accordingly, returned with an Answer from the Officers, and that they had appointed the 11th Day of *May* for a Settlement.

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* This new Name, instead of Mob, was necessary, according to the Nature of the Business of the Day of altering the Articles.

The Regulators hereupon called a Meeting on the 30th of *April*, chose twelve Men to meet accordingly; and sent the Officers an Account thereof; but the Paper never was deliverd by Reason (as it was on a *Saturday*) the Governor's Secretary arriv'd the same Day in the Town, and brought a Proclamation from the Governor, desiring all Rioters to disperse: And on their Refusal, commanding all Officers to aid and assist to disperse them.—And, what I think is the oddest Thing I ever heard of, this Proclamation was set up on *Saturday*, the Rioters ever since the Riot all peacable at Home, yet the Officers assembled themselves on *Sunday* to the Number of about Thirty, with a Tavern-keeper or two, and a Man who had lately killed another, which the Jury of Inquest had adjudged willful Murder, all armed with Guns, Pistols and Swords, and rode all the Sabbath Night, the Distance of 40 Miles, and took one of the Rioters Prisoner by Virtue of a Warrant;—And also another innocent Person without any Precept at all by Reason no Precept could be obtained, because no Charge was, nor could be proven against him, though they had made all the Search and Enquiry they were capable of doing, by Reason, as was hinted before, he was allowed to have been the Author of the former Papers, No. 1, 2, and 3.

But the Case was so among the Inhabitants, that every man knew who was and who was not joined into the Regulation, by Reason it was all the Topick of Converse and Enquiry. It being therefore so well known that this Person was Innocent, that it alarmed and raised a fiery Zeal in every one who had or had not entered into the Association. And I suppose not near half the Inhabitants had at this Time entered into it.

This Alarm immediatly so engaged almost every Man, Woman and Child, that by Day-Light, next Morning, some Hundreds were assembled near the Town, which Number, in an Hour or two, encreas'd

creased to Odds of seven Hundred armed Men; many of which had traveled forty odd Miles on foot, some bare footed, and some (at least one) had travelled thirty Miles with his Shoes slip-shod; but the most Part were on Horseback. The whole was actuated by what the World calls the Spirit of Enthusiasm, for I felt it myself as soon as I came into the Company; it caught every Man, good or bad, as *Saul* was caught among the Prophets.

—————A man Under the Operation of this Spirit, I am certain, can do and undergo double what he can at another Time.—It is prodigiously dangerous to raise this Spirit, if it is nothing but Natural, as some imagine; but I believed it was a Work of Providence, and therefore feared no Evil.

The Governor's Secretary met this Company in sight of the Town; —————But I have to observe, first, That both the Prisoners had given Bail, and had met this Company very early; for we supposed the Officers had got some Word of their being on the Road, as some Companies took up long before Day, near the Town, —————or else the Prisoners would, we suppose, have been sent to *Newbern*, 200 Miles. This would have been hard work, for the Inhabitants on the East Side of the Town who were also assembled in Companies, laying in Wait to rescue the Prisoners among Inhabitants who had not intermeddled before. —————The Secretary read the Proclamation, and delivered a verbal Message, which he said he had from the Governor, That if they should assemble While he Was up, to tell them, if they Would Petition the Governor, he Would Protect and Redress them against any unlawful Extortions, or Oppressions of any Officer or Officers in the County; Provided they would disperse and Go Home.

No sooner was the Word spoke, but the whole Multitude, as with one Voice, cried out, Agreed. That

That is all we want ; Liberty to Make our Grievances known.

It is admirable the Quickness of the Spirits in a People, truly engaged in a Cause, to apprehend and take any Thing offered that in truth has a Tendency to procure a Remedy we had felt ourselves shut out and denied a Hearing ; and we sensibly felt the whole Calculation and Design of our Enemies was to prevent our Cries from Reaching, as it were, the Royal Ear ; or, which is the same Thing, the Legislative Body of the Government.

A fatal Blow was this to our Adversaries ; but they saw it not till it was too Late. Had not this very Accident happened, we never Could have had a Hearing.

And to mend the Matter, the Secretary was so Pleased, that he had hit upon an Expedient, to mak Peace, that he sent for some Bottles of Wine, and with a loud Voice, before Officers and People, Repeated the Same Thing over and over, without Variation, several Times ; and drank the Wine as a Testimony or Record, that such an Agreement was made ; and that by express Orders from his Excellency.

The Joy that we returned Home with, on this Occasion, was inexpressible, for Men can feel Things of an oppressive Nature that they can't make appear ; we could plainly feel we were debarred from Complaining ; we could feel we dared not Petition the Governor unless we let our Adversaries Word the Petition. But now they had tied themselves. We immediatly advertised the Agreement, and appointed a Meeting ; but this opened the Eyes of our Officers to see their Mistake. I call it a Mistake and Accident, because the Governor denied Afterwards that he gave such Orders, as will be seen by and by in his Answer to our Petition ; though some who don't like him, think he denied it because he rued it.

It is beyond my Power to describe the Pains that
was

was taken to Recal this Mistake, unless I was to Print a Copy of all their Letters, and as much Preaching and Arguments as a Man could read in a Week.——We were told in plain Terms, and in Writing, that no Petition could, nor would go down with the Governor but such a one as they had Wrote for us, in which they made us say, we had thought the Officers wronged us, but had now found it was owing to some Mistake or Defect in our Proceeding; and told us, if we persisted, Colonel *Fanning* would represent our Case to the Governor as High Treason, and not as a Riot,—and kept constantly at this Work till and on the Day appointed to meet, where and when a Merchant and Clergyman appeared to influence and frighten us from Proceeding; and though they made the Work Exceeding unpleasant, and much confused us; yet the following Paper was unanimously at last agreed to, *viz.*

No. VII.

“ At a General Meeting of the Regulators, Associates and others, Inhabitants of the County of Orange, Held at *George Sally's*, on the 21st of May, 1768.

“ **I**T was unanimously agreed to continue our Petition agreed on last Meeting to the Governor, Council and Assembly, for Redressing very grievous, cruel, iniquitous and oppressive Practices of our Officers, which we generally conceive we have laboured under this Many Years, contrary to Law.

And in Pursuance of a verbal Message from the Governor, sent to us Express by his Secretary, delivered to us on the 3d of this Instant, we agree to Renew our said Petition.—And as sundry Forms have been read here this Day, and signed by sundry Neighbourhoods, we appoint

W———— M————, W———— C————,
H———— C————, J———— L————,
D J————