



# THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY



## Or, Thomas's Boston Journal.



Do thou Great LIBERTY inspire our Souls—And make our Lives in thy Possession happy—Or, our Deaths glorious in thy just Defence.

VOL. IV.) THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1774: (NUMB. 179.)

### JOIN OR DIE



*THE* great demand for this paper, has often occasioned many good customers being disappointed, for which the publisher is very sorry: He will, in future, endeavour to prevent any thing of the like kind happening, so long as he may have the honour of being an hand-servant to the public.

The *voluntary* prospect of public affairs, at present, in this devoted capital, has occasioned some pressing Demands upon him, which with great reluctance he informs his customers, he can by no means answer without their kind assistance: He is loath to trouble them with a dunning advertisement, but his affairs make it necessary: His customers in the country towns in this province, and those in the other colonies, he hopes will take proper notice of it, and consider there is no possibility, (especially for a young beginner) in carrying on business without regular payments.

A work of this kind, it is well known is attended with great expence, and he begs leave to mention, that the MASSACHUSETTS SPY is a third larger than any News-Paper published in this province, and contains as much News, as many Political Essays, as any in America; and is the cheapest on the globe.

I. THOMAS.

Boston, June 9, 1774.

In the House of Representatives, June 14, 1774.

**WHEREAS** there will become due in this month sundry notes given by the province-treasurer, and sufficient provision having been made for the paying off the same, and if the possessors of such notes should bring them in to the treasurer to be paid, the province will suffer damage by such neglect.

Therefore Resolved, That the possessors of such notes; who shall not bring them to the province-treasurer, to be paid by the last day of July next, shall not receive any interest on the same, after that time, and the province-treasurer, is hereby directed forthwith to cause this order to be published in all the Boston News-papers, three weeks successively, that every one concerned may be notified hereof.

Sent up for concurrence. T. CUSHING, speaker.

In council, June 15th. Read and concurred.

JOHN COTTON, D. Sec'y.

THO. GAGE.

*Confuted by,*  
A true copy, attested,  
JOHN COTTON, D. Sec'y.

The treasurer of the province hereby gives public notice to the delinquent collectors and collectors of the province taxes, that they pay the same into the treasury by the 1st of July next.

Treasury-Office, June 18, 1774.

From the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.  
LETTER IV.  
To the Inhabitants of the British Colonies in AMERICA.

*Extract,*

**THE** intelligence received, since the preceding letter was written, seems to render needless every attempt to prove from former transactions,—any just intimation if health had permitted,—that a regular plan has been invariably pursued to invade their colonies, and that the act of Parliament on the 5th of March last, is a part of

Riots and weak publications, by a small number of individuals, are sufficient reasons with Parliament to ruin many thousand inhabitants of a truly respectable town, to dissolve charters, to abolish the benefits of the *Act of Toleration*, and to strip American liberty—for the principle reaches all. But in England the press grows with publications, seditions, treasonable and even blasphemous. The discontented swarm over the kingdom, proclaiming their resentments. Many enormous riots have disturbed the public peace. The sovereign has been insulted in passing from his palace to the Parliament-house, on the behalf of the nation. Is it to be concluded from these facts, that the **BODY OF THE PEOPLE** is seditious and traitorous? can his Majesty believe, that he is thought by his English subjects in general to be such a prince, as some of them have represented him? will the two houses of Parliament acknowledge what has been spoken and written and acted against them in England, expels the sentiments of the kingdom? or will they say, that the people of England have forsaken their liberty, because some of them have run into licentiousness? let a judgment be formed in *their* cases by the fair rule: Let them condemn *themselves* or acquit us.

Prejudice and reason are totally different. The provocation, said to be given by our sister colony, set but the pretences for the exorbitant severity exercised against her: The reasons are three—the policy, detestable and detestable as it is, of supplanting the freedom of America by a military force; to be supported by money taken out of our own pockets, and the supposed convenience of opportunity for attaining this end. These reasons are evident from the minister's speech: The system is formed with art, but the art is discoverable: Indeed, I do not believe it was expected, we should have such early and small intelligence of the schemes agreed against us, as we have received. Any person, who examines the multitude of libels published in pamphlets and news-papers in Great-Britain, or the speeches made in either house of Parliament, will find them directed against the colonies in general. The people in that kingdom have

advised valde illis gentis pro nobis utiliter, quam in COMMUNE NON CONSULENT. Rarus et propaludens commone periculosus conventus. Ita sunt regali pugnant omnes vincuntur.

Why did the little Swiss cantons, and seven small provinces of the low countries, so successfully oppose the tyrants, that not contented with an empire founded in humanity and mutual advantages, *unconquerably* and vigorously strove to "LAY" the faithful and affectionate wretches "AT THEIR FEET?" Because, they wisely regarded the interest of each as the interest of all.

Our own experience furnishes a mournful additional proof of an observation made by a great and good man, Lord president Forbes. "It is a certain truth," says he, "that all states and kingdoms, in proportion as they grow great, wealthy and powerful, grow wretched, wicked and oppressive, and the history of all ages gives evidence of the fatal catastrophe of all such states and kingdoms, when the top of their iniquity is full." Another "truth" as "certain" is—that "such states and kingdoms" never have been, and never will be checked in the career of their "dissensions, wickedness and oppression" by a people in any degree, dependent upon them, but by the prudent, virtuous and steady unanimity of that people. To employ these words to gladden a point is manifest, would be the life amongst of sliding gold.

Surely you cannot doubt at this time, any countrymen, but that the people of Massachusetts—*they* are following in a cautious caution to us all; and therefore, that we ought immediately to consider the most prudent measures for their relief and our own safety.

Our interest depending on the present controversy is un- speakably valuable. We have not the least prospect of human assistance. The passion of disunion, raging like a plague, for about seven years past, has spread with mortal malignity through Europe, Africa, Poland, and Denmark, have sunk beneath it. The remaining spirit of France, that lingered and languished in the settlements of France, has lately expired, by the new moulding their settlements. What kingdom or state interposed for the relief of their dis-