To the honorable Speaker and Honourable House of Burgesses.

The Freeholders of the County of Westmoreland, regarding this honourable House as the only true and constitutional representatives of the people of Virginia and therefore the only Assembly, where, consistently with law and liberty, taxes can be imposed on them, humbly beg leave to hope that the House will take into their most serious consideration the tendency of certain Acts of the British Parliament lately passed, for billeting soldiers in America, and for passing duties on Glass, Paper, Paint &c. for the purpose of raising a Revenue. It seems to your Petitioners that the Battering-act, by requiring a supply (for quartering Troops) to be levied on the people without the free consent of their Representatives, is an internal Tax destructive of our liberty and Rights, founded as they are on the English constitution confirmed by Charters and frequently recognized by the British Parliament.

Now can we fail to be greatly alarmed, when we find this unconstitutional Act attempted to be forced on our fellow Subjects of New York by another Act suspending the Legislature of that Province.

The connection subsisting between Geo. Rust.
and ten Colonies producing a political necessity for
supplies of Manufactures to be taken solely from
the former by the latter, renders the Act impo-
sing duties on Papal Papal, and French in
America, both cruel and unconstitutional. The
same property of British Subjects in America
being thus granted away by a Parliament in which
they are not, and cannot be represented, must efface
their liberty, and deprive them of the means
of showing loyalty to their most gracious Sovereign and
affection to the Mother Country, by giving their
money thro their own Representatives, whom
the convention insist of British in America shall
demand it. Should these acts appear to them men
d house in the same destructive and dangerous light
that they do to your Petitioners, we will not doubt
but that the constitutional Guardians of the
Liberty of Virginia, will by addressing
His Majesty, the great Defender of
American as well as British Rights, or
by whatever means shall appear most proper
and effectual to the wisdom of the House,
endeavor to obtain the Repeal of those Acts so
evidently producing the destruction of American
freedom and happiness — and by Petitioners