

who ought to pay the tax they made choice of their situation before we came here and they occupy the most fertile & productive (the not the most extensive) tracts of intervale. They are generally from our country - Republican principles are bred in their bones, and they would be turbulent if they dare - notwithstanding the protection & all the other favors which they have received from the King's Government.

A discerning and cautious minister may justly raise the question - Whether (in the present state of public matters) it would be policy to demand a tax here?

Situated as I am, I should not incline to enter largely into the consideration of such a question - but - to you and other men of sense who have witnessed the rise & progress of opposition and rebellion I will venture to observe - That the instability & ill timed indulgencies of the mother country - contributed more to the establishment of American independence than all their severities and restrictions.

In this province I have since it was settled (as you say) and others before I have witnessed all its gradations from a wilderness to its present state of improvement - and (much as I detest Egoism) I will boldly assert That I have contributed as much towards its advancement and organization as any individual who ever placed his foot upon the soil. (Of course) feel an attachment to it equal to what I formerly experienced to the land of my nativity - nor could I be induced by any consideration of personal benefit to urge a measure which might operate as an oppression upon the people of it.

It appears to me essential to the tranquillity and happiness of the province that the inhabitants of it should realize and (on all occasions) acknowledge their dependence upon Great Britain; Nor can I conceive of more rational method of familiarizing them to the contemplation of this their political State than by demanding an annual moderate rent which every man in the country has voluntarily pledged himself to pay.

With respect to the time - It appears to me that the present is a favorable time for the commencement of the rent - a retrospect I should presume would not be attempted.

The

Kingslear 1st March 1800

My dear Sir

I deferred answering your friendly Letter of the 20th of August till I could have an opportunity of conversing with our valuable friend Mr Leonard. A late visit of his - at this place has afforded me the chance I wished for.

But - as I should permit me in a single sentence) to offer the sincere condolence of a friend on the accumulated afflictions with which you have been overwhelmed, and to express my concern at the consideration that Letters of mine should have intruded upon those sacred hours which were devoted to paternal sorrow.

May the contemplation of the miseries to which the most innocent and amiable are unavoidably exposed in this world - and the Christian confidence in a state of eternal reward and happiness - alluviate your grief and restore your peace of mind.

Accept my thanks for your late attention to my son - It is a matter of extreme concern to me that I have it not in my power to afford him more pecuniary aid (but in my present situation) I cannot do it without starving the rest of the family.

In pursuance of your advice I made application in his behalf to commissioner Coffin who in the most friendly manner, has proffered his service and has desired that Murray will forward to him (wherever he may be) the necessary Certificate as soon as his time as a Midshipman is expired. He also assures me that he will use his utmost interest to obtain promotion for him. I have inclosed letters for Capt. Apthorp and Murray and beg your care of them.

My Bills in favor of Rogers Bell & Co for the half year ending in June last were drawn for £ 60 and previous to the receipt of your last letter (which by a concurrence of accidents was a very long time in getting to me) I had drawn for £ 80 in favor of the same house for the December period. so that if you have been obliged to pay the income tax and my sons Bell there is yet a balance due you. This shall be provided for in my next bills.

Col. Luttrely

March 1, 1800.