

most ancient colony: for settling and ascertaining the same to all future times, the House of Burgesses of this present General Assembly have come to the following resolves:—

... *Resolved*, That the first adventurers and settlers of this, his majesty's colony and dominion, brought with them and transmitted to their posterity, and all other his majesty's subjects, since inhabiting in this, his majesty's colony, all the privileges, franchises, and immunities that have at any time been held, enjoyed, and possessed, by the people of Great Britain. . . .

... *Resolved*, That his majesty's liege people of this most ancient colony have uninterruptedly enjoyed the right of being thus governed by their own Assembly in the article of their taxes and internal police, and that the same hath never been forfeited, or any other way given up, but hath been constantly recognized by the kings and people of Great Britain.

... *Resolved*, therefore, That the General Assembly of this colony have the only and sole exclusive right and power to lay taxes and impositions upon the inhabitants of this colony; and that every attempt to vest such power in any person or persons whatsoever, other than the General Assembly aforesaid, has a manifest tendency to destroy British as well as American freedom.

Moses Coit Tyler, *Patrick Henry* (New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1898), 69–70.

PRACTICING Historical Thinking

Identify: Describe the problem and proposed solution to the injustices that Henry describes.

Analyze: Determine two opposing audiences that Henry has in mind, and explain why you chose them.

Evaluate: In what ways does Henry's resolution echo documents like John Locke's "Second Treatise on Civil Government" (Doc. 3.9)?

DOCUMENT 4.5

JOHN DICKINSON, Letter from a Farmer in Pennsylvania

1767

John Dickinson (1732–1808) was a prominent Pennsylvania lawyer and essayist who published the series *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* to protest British imperial policies in the aftermath of the Stamp Act crisis of 1765. Here he is referring to the Townshend Duties, which were a series of taxes placed on imported goods in the aftermath of the Stamp Act crisis.

The assembly of that government [New York] complied with a former act of parliament, requiring certain provisions to be made for the troops in *America*, in every particular, I think, except the articles of salt, pepper and vinegar. . . .