contrary to His Majesty's just expectations, come to extremities, in
which case you may be assured, that the security of our possessions
in America will be a principal object of His Majesty's care and
attention.
I am &c.
HILLSBOROUGH.

P. S. Since I wrote the above letter farther Advices from the
Court of France have been communicated to me which confirm us
in our hopes that the Peace may still be preserved. H.

[FROM MS. RECORDS IN THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.]

WHEREAS, some persons have been ungnerous enough to report,
that Colonel Edmund Fanning is a mere dependant on the Crown,
and therefore an improper person to represent the County of Orange
in general Assembly; and as he is not here in person to defend his
Character thus injured, by such report equally false, as it is ungener-
ous; We beg permission as lovers of truth and injur'd merit, and
as enemies to falsehood and calumny, to submit to the consideration
of the publick a few remarks, Viz'.

Firstly. That those who propagate this report, are persons cour-
ing the voice of popularity.

Secondly. That all those heretofore asseenting to his representing
them in general Assembly, have experienced his steady and unal-
terable attachment to the welfare and interest of his constituents.

Thirdly. That as he again intends becoming an inhabitant of the
county of Orange, where he holds a considerable property, and as he
not only hath his whole fortune in America but is himself an Ameri-
can, it may well and reasonably be supposed, that he will in his
legislative capacity contribute all that lies in his power for the interest
of this Province in general and of the County of Orange in par-
ticular.

That, it is true, he holds the office of Surveyor general of the
province of New York under the Crown, but he holds it during his
good behaviour, which in such cases is always for life and never
forfeited but by misbehaviour in Office, and therefore such unjust
aspersions against him in his absence, proceed merely from dislike
and a jealousy of his superior abilities and interest with the people.

Colonel Fanning's generosity public spirit & zeal for the good of
Orange and Hillsborough are notorious even to his enemies: his
property is considerable, and therefore the interest of the public
must be his interest. — will any person then well acquainted with
that Gentleman do him so much injustice, as to suppose even not-
withstanding he were to hold the said office during pleasure, he
would on that account betray the interest of his fellow subjects.
Such a supposition, after repeated proofs to the contrary, discovera
degree of ingratitude which we hope few of this County possess.
That, to a generous mind, such an attempt to injure that Gentle-
man's character, must be compared to an Assassin who endeavours to
stab in the dark, and is a proof of the baseness of the hearts of those
who have made this vile attempt.

By several Freeholders of the County of Orange.

[Yesterday, America & W. Ind. N. Y. Vol. 218.]

Petition of the Inhabitants of Orange County.*

To MARTIN HOWARD CHIEF JUSTICE AND MAURICE MOORE AND
RICHARD HENDERSON ASSOCIATE JUDGES.
The Humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Orange County humbly
sheweth,

That as it is a Maxim in our Laws that no Law Statute or Custom
which are against Gods Law or principals of nature can be of any
validity but are null.

If therefore Laws themselves when against Reason and Justice
are null and void much more the practice used by men in the Law
which is contrary to the Law as well as Reason Justice and Equity
ought to be condemned and surely it is against Justice Reason and
Equity to exact Taxes and extort Fees that are unlawful from the
poor industrious Farmers — Yet these are but a few of a great many
more evils of that nature which has been of a long time our sad
case and condition and to such a degree general among so many of
the men of the Law that we quite despairs of any redress being
be had that way. But as you the Governor Kings Attorney Gen-
eral and other Gentlemen of the Law pledged to us your words
your honours your oaths that we could and should be redressed by
the Law it would be tedious as well as unnecessary to recite the

* Enclosed in Governor Tryon's letter of 20th October 1770.
suppose the most strenuous methods has been used to hinder it from coming to light. In the next place Thomas Lloyd may also be said to be a party concerned as he is one of the insolvent Sheriffs Securities and likewise the Justice who committed H. Husband without a Warrant proof of any crime and without a Mittimus, besides all this he has been Vestry Man and Church Warden frequently these Ten years past and more during which time he has been unsettled and irregularly kept and large Balances behind. Thomas Hart being the only Sheriff that ever settled which was for 1761, the particulars of whose accounts is also kept from the eyes of the public, all which is contrary to Law and for which neglect the Church Wardens and Clerks are indictable.

My Chief Justice you at our last Court seemed to be somewhat prejudiced against us in a speech that you made in which you signified your Jealousy that we acted through Malice, Ambition &c: But concluding if what we did was from motives to promote Justice and Extortion &c: for the publick good that you wished us all the success imaginable and heartily concurred with us in our undertaking. Oh that you might be sincere and could but a known our hearts. However be that as it will your Speech could not but afford us consolation and encouragement to persevere for we could lay our hands on our hearts and call God to witness in ourselves that this was our whole sole end and purpose and that too out of pure necessity to keep ourselves and innocent helpless Neighbours from utter ruin our whole properties having become quite insecure as well as our characters — As the two persons who was indicted last Court for perjury reason they had indicted and witnessed against Extortions are two honest innocent men — Yea we need say no more but that we know these two men are honest men of good characters and innocent of that charge, whereas on the contrary to pick the whole country there cannot be found men of much worse characters than many or most of those who have sworn against them. As for the objection that some pretend to make (to wit) that it is hard to find Jurymen but what is prejudiced to one side or the other this objection has not the least foundation in Truth or Reason Absolutely no more than if a gang of horse thieves had been numerous and formidable enough to have engaged the same attention and concern of the publick — for those Extorters and Exactors of Tax are certainly more dangerous than those Thieves and in the next place they and all who espouse their cause knowingly are as to numbers inconsiderably small, only that they have the handling the
Law chiefly in their own hands—our late Elections help to prove this Diversion; we carried our Elections for Vestrymen twenty five to one—The consequence of not trying these men subject to Law is wooden shoes and uncombed hair—What sense or reason is there in saying any are prejudiced to our side for what is it we have done—we have labored honestly for our Bread and studied to defraud no man nor live on the spoils of other mens labors nor snatched the Bread out of other mens hands. Our only crime with which they can charge us is virtue in the very highest degree namely to risque our all to save our Country from Rapine and Slavery in our detecting of practices which the Law itself allows to be worse than open Robbery — It is not one in a hundred or a thousand of us who have broke one Law in this our struggle for only common Justice which it is even a shame for any Government or any set of Men in the Law once to have denied us off—Whereas they as has acted the most legally are the most torn to pieces by the Law through malicious prosecutions parried against them.

To sum up the whole matter of our Petition in a few words it is namely these that we may obtain unprejudiced Jurys, That all extortionate Officers Lawyers and Clerks may be brought to fair Trial — That the Collectors of publick money may be called to proper settlements of their accounts, namely the Sheriffs for the years 1764, 1765, 1766 & 1767 to which time the taxes was generally collected (a small part of the last year excepted) the refusing to settle for which or give us any satisfaction occasioned the past disturbances — If We cannot obtain this that we may have some security for our properties more than the bare humour of officers, we can see plainly that we shall not be able to live under such oppressions and to what extremities this must drive us you can as well judge of as we can ourselves, we having no other determination but to be redressed and that to be in a legal and lawful way — As we are serious and in good earnest and the Cause respects the whole Body of the people it would be loss of time to enter into arguments on particular points for though there is a few men who have the gift or art of reasoning yet every man has a feeling and knows when he has justice done him as well as the most learned.

Therefore that Justice which every man will be ashamed to own that ever he denied us of when in his power to grant is the prayer of our Petition and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Signed by 174 Subscribers.