

And consequently that their Conclusion drawn from those Premises,  
 " For which those Officers ought to be answerable,"  
 Cannot be right.

But, before I quit this Head concerning the Naval-Officers, I cannot but observe, that the Report, an Extract of which you have in the Beginning of this Message, omits doing that Justice to those Officers which is strictly their Due; for it mentions not how that Committee came by their Knowledge of the Refusal of the Masters of the Vessels therein mentioned, to pay those Duties, nor one Word of any Impost-Bonds having been taken, as the Country's Security for the Payment of those Duties; tho' the Naval-Officer of *Annapolis* assures me, that at the Foot of the first Account he passed with the Commissioners, which Account was, I presume, by them laid before that Committee; and likewise at the Foot of a List of the Entries of Servants, which he delivered into that House by my Order on their Address, under a *N. B.* he mentions the Masters of those Vessels, as having refused to pay the Duty upon those Convicts; but that the Office was in Possession of their Impost-Bonds, taken payable to the Lord Proprietary; by a Suit upon which, those Duties, if due, might be recovered: And that this Intimation was given, as well to prevent, from an Unacquaintance with these Facts, the Loss of that Money to the Public; as, at the same Time to show that Lower House, that he had done his Duty, by taking those Impost-Bonds, which are the established Security to the Public for all Country Duties.

Why were not these Facts mentioned? Why, when that Committee was examining into the Conduct of those Officers, were some Transactions by Information from themselves, noticed, and others, tho' appearing upon the Face of the same Evidence, concealed? Was it merely for the Sake of patching up a Charge against them, in order to get their Office-Bonds sued? And can you, after this Behaviour of that Committee, and that House, say, their Representations are just, and your Complaints, in Consequence of them, Reasonable?

Believe me, *Gentlemen*, that such a Course of Proceeding in the Representatives of the People, is so far from acquiring to them that Confidence which they claim, and a Compliance with their earnest Desires, that I must beg to be excused, if, for the future, I shall chuse to see the Bottom of every Representation against any Man, whether Officer or Not, with my own Eyes; since I find so little Reliance is to be had on their Firmness and Candour.

And now, to conclude this Message, so far as it relates to the Naval-Officers; since I find no Breach of Duty in those Officers; since Impost-Bonds, which are the established Security to the Public for all Country Duties, are taken payable to the Proprietor, and by which these Duties are secured in the regular and usual Way, and since, as I am told, those Securities are still good (tho' how soon they may fail cannot be foreseen) I shall, upon your Request, order those Bonds to be put in Suit, against the original Debtors to the Public, to recover those Duties, if you think them payable, as you seem to do, by your desiring the Naval-Officers Bonds to be sued: But if nothing less than Suits upon those Officers Bonds will content you, I must beg to be excused; and if, when I find such a Spirit prevailing, as seems to have Governed the last Lower House, I should afford any one endangered by it, a Protection from Injustice and Oppression (as I think even the Trouble of attending Suits on those Bonds, and the Loss of the Costs to those Officers, tho' they should end in Non-suits, would be) I should hope you would think I was only acting agreeable to the Duties of my Station.

I come now to the second Head of your Address, relating to the Commissioners of the Currency Office, wherein you express your Concern to find, that no legal Steps have yet been taken to compel those Commissioners to Credit the Public with those Monies paid so many Years ago into that Office by *Trippe*, *Parter*, and *Bradford*: You'll be pleased to observe, *Gentlemen*, that the first Address upon this Subject to me was in the last Session; to which I then gave you for Answer (amongst other Things) That Col. *Hammond*, who was the only surviving Commissioner who could be affected by those Judgments, obtained long before my Arrival in this Province, had told me, that as he could make it appear the Money in Question never was paid into the Office, he had appealed from those Judgments; and I can venture to assure you, that a Writ of Error is now depending for their Reversal, wherein should he not succeed, I have Reason to believe, he will, without further Trouble, pay the Money; by which Means the Country may receive it as soon as upon a Suit commenced on his Bonds. I presume that the particular Behaviour of the Jury in those Cases, (which I am told gave no small Disgust to many sensible By-Standers): And the Matters having been dormant so many Years, may have given him Reason to conclude, that this Affair would never be stirred against him, notwithstanding those Judgments, because as soon as that Address of last Session came to my Hands, he declared he would endeavour to Reverse them; and if those Judgments are Erroneous, I am in Hopes you will not think it unreasonable, that he should not be obliged to pay the Money under them.

December 16, 1757.

HOR<sup>o</sup>. SHARPE.

Which