

Letter Bk. I. Spencer as the Assembly was then sitting I immediately obeyed His Ldp's Instructions by acquainting them that His Ldp had been pleased to Dissent to the Act for empowering the several Courts within this province to order Commissions for the Examination of Witnesses residing beyond Sea, & that concerning Turkey point prayed for by Cotterel I also intimated to them by the same Message that the Inspection Law w<sup>d</sup> meet with the same fate unless they w<sup>d</sup> proceed to repeal the Clauses

p. 107 w<sup>ch</sup> respect the Limitation of Officers fees & the Regulation of Coin. A Bill I learn is preparing in the Lower House to re-enact (as his Ldps pleasure is) that part of the first above mentioned Laws w<sup>ch</sup> regards the Foreclosure of Mortgages; but I despair of seeing them prevailed on to repeal any part of the Inspection Law on any account whatever, in that Case the Gent<sup>n</sup> of the Upper House propose to Address His Ldp to let the law continue in force in its present form & to set forth the several Reasons that induced them to concur with the Lower House in passing it, for my own part as I have already offered such Reasons as occurred to me in favour of the Law I will not presume to enlarge again thereon but will only hope that His Ldp will excuse my consenting thereto after His Ldp's Council & all that I consulted or conversed with were unanimous in favour of the Clauses against w<sup>ch</sup> the principal Objections lye so infatuated was the Majority of the House of Burgesses as to think the Law as far as it respects Tob<sup>o</sup> evil in itself, & therefore were disposed to crush it, but to prevent the general Confusion & uneasiness that w<sup>d</sup> attend the sinking of a Law which regulated Officers fees they agreed to pass it with some few Alterations from the former Law & the Addition of the Clause relating to the Valuation of Coin. That these Articles would be receded from, the Upper House found there was no room to hope & therefore consented to the Law as it is, for the Reasons that I have before hinted & which I apprehend they will offer more at large in the Address that they intend to present to His Ldp thereon. There certainly ought (as you observe) to have been farther acknowledgments made to His Ldp but there being none in the Inspection Law that expired at that time twas vain then to insist on the Insertion of such Clauses or periods in this Act. The Example also of the former will I hope plead my excuse for permitting any paragraph concerning Officers fees to be made a part of the present Act; beside in Alleviation of that seeming impropriety you will please to consider that the Regulation of

p. 108 Officers fees must in some Sort be determined by the Inspection Law because on that Law depends the Worth & Value of Tob<sup>o</sup> in which Fees have been always payable. I before consulted the Lawyers here & asked their Opinion whether & how