

Letter Bk. I. oning I think must be conclusive & should they deny or question the Justness of the Quotation Mr Ridout has taken Minutes & References so that the Original Books & Pages can be easily recurred to. however as I think it would be best to confute every Antagonist or Adversary as effectually as possible & shew them that all their Arguments have been also duly considered & regarded, I could wish that His Ldp would permit you to submit the whole Book herewith sent (containing a true State of the Revenue Laws &c from the first Settlement of the Province to the present time, some Addresses from the Lower House & Report of their Committee concerning them & the late Governors Answers) to some Lawyer for His Opinion which if returned me before the Assembly meet again might if then thought necessary be laid before them to be entered at large in the Journal of their proceedings & recorded for the Satisfaction & Conviction of them & Posterity. But this Matter I humbly submit to His Lordship & yourself that such Steps may be taken therein as to you shall seem proper. I am sorry to find that Mr Steuart still persists in his Clamour against the Act made in July 1754 that imposes a Duty on Servants. I have writ to the Naval Officers & cautioned them against collecting or receiving any Duties that are not imposed by Acts of Parliament or Assembly, but I doubt they will scarcely decline collecting the Duty of 20/ p Poll on every Convict imported that shall be sold for Seven years as they seem to think themselves obliged by their Oath to collect such Duty. Had I forbid them in positive Terms to forbear Collecting it, t'would have shewn that I knew they had already done so & I could not have recommended it to the Assembly to repeal that Part of the Act without discovering a Consciousness of the Duty's being imposed contrary to an Act of Parliament, besides I am thoroughly convinced that if I had desired it or seemed vastly anxious to have the Clause repealed t'would have given the Lower House some Degree of Satisfaction as they would have concluded that the Govern^t was distressed about it. however I have taken Care to have it excepted in
 p. 208 the Bill that is now passed & hope that will be enough to satisfy Mr Steuart, if it does not & His Ldp thinks that it will involve him in the least trouble or difficulty, I see no Cause why he should not dissent to the Act & give the Attorney General's Opinion as his Reason for so doing. A considerable Part of the £6000 is already raised, & as the other Funds will I beleive raise the Money before the time limited for sinking the Paper Money if the Assembly will upon His Ldp's dissenting to this continue them by another Law, I do not apprehend that the Province will receive any prodigious Detriment from His Ldp's Dissent, but Mr Steuart may be assured that the