

Letter Bk. III Days with a negative & their Objections in writing to many Parts of it. A Conference was afterwards agreed on by both Houses & after a warm Engagement between the Conferees that lasted above a week the principal Obstacles were removed & the Bill assented to. The Burgesses had at first as I before hinted insisted that all His Ldp's mannour & Reserved Lands should be made liable to the Tax & none exempted but such as remain still vacant; but to give you a clear Idea of what is meant by Mannour, Reserved & Vacant Lands it will perhaps be necessary to inform you that at times the Lords Proprietaries or their Governors have on an Appearance of Copper or other Ores or on Account of the extraordinary Fertility of the Soil or their Contiguity to Towns or His Ldp's Mannour's ordered a Reserve to be entered on certain Tracts of Land, or in other words forbad those Officers who are impowered to sell grant or make away such Tracts on any Consideration whatever; these differ from the Mannour Lands in this that the latter are regularly & properly surveyed & the Description & Bounds of them entered in the publick Records, but the Reserved Lands have never been surveyed or laid out, are not distinguished or known by proper Names as the Mannours are but are in the Records described only in general Terms or words "as all the Land that lies between such & such Hills or Rivers or between two Roads for its Breadth & so many Miles for its Length &c" however parts or Parcells of these Reserves are leased & His Ldp's Agent receives Rent for the same as he does for those parts of the Mannours that are let to Tenants. Lands that are unoccupied or have never been taken up but are by His Ldp's Land Officers to be sold to any that will purchase them at the Common Rates are called Vacant Lands, from such His Ldp receives no immediate Revenue & Profit, neither did our Assembly offer to burthen them tho the Pensilvanians had endeavoured to make their Proprietaries vacant Lands liable to the Tax that was proposed to be laid in that Province. Upon the Conference that I have already mentioned the Lower House receded from what they had at first insisted on so far, that instead of Taxing All His Ldp's Reserved Lands they agreed that only those Parts of them that are actually leased out & pay Rent to His Ldp shall be made liable & that the Rest shall be deemed vacant & exempted Accordingly, but the whole mannours according to the true Contents of each whether tenanted or unoccupied are subjected to the payment of the Tax, in the same manner & form that the Inhabitants' Lands are, I think the Annual Rents that His Ldp receives from such Parts of his mannour & Reserved Lands as are leased amount to about £ $\frac{3}{4}$ 000, & it is supposed that His Ldp's Proportion of the Tax imposed will in the five years for which