

Letter Bk. III sideration whatever; but if that be His Ldp's Sense & Resolution why should he not have sent me a particular & peremptory Instruction to that purpose? t'was what I sollicitd & it would have removed all my Scruples or Difficulties, perhaps it would have been impolitick & prejudicial to His Ldp's Interest, it might have given Rise to Clamours & inclined the people to make Representations or Remonstrances, They may possibly have called me in the Stile of the Pensilvianians an Odious Instrument but yet I should have been no longer in uncertainty, & as it is not thought expedient in such times as these to leave any thing to the Discretion of a Governor or His Council Laws should be given for their Guidance & Direction that knowing their Duty they may act agreeable thereto. When I saw there was some Probability of the Bills' passing both Houses of Assembly I laid before His Ldp's Council Extracts of my Letters to His Ldp & M^r Calvert relative to the Pensilvania Disputes together with M^r Calvert's Answer thereto & desired them to consult & advise me thereon. This Caution the Importance of the Affair made necessary & I presume their Advice will be in some Sort my Iustification. They were Unanimously of Opinion if the Bill should in other Respects be found unexceptionable, or so agreeable as that I would not reject it on any other Account that I ought not to refuse Enacting it into a Law merely because a small Tax was to be thereby imposed on His Ldp's Mannours & demised Lands: His Ldp's Agent spoke what is above said concerning £1600, lost or deficient last year & insisted that if Regard was to be had to His Ldp's pecuniary Interest The Bill should not be objected to. by some t'was argued that the matter in question was not similar to that which had been the Cause of Contention in Pensilvania; that there was a wide Difference between a pound Tax as was proposed in Pens^a & a Land Tax as was about to be laid here; that the Pensilvianians had insisted on the Proprietaries personal & real Estate in the Province being assessed & taxed according to its Value estimated by such Assessors as the People should elect; that the Contents of His Ldp's Mannours & demised Lands were known & recorded & that therefore no Injustice could be done him by partial Assessors or Collectors. that it was evident the Members of the Lower House being for the most part remote from Danger would not let the Lives of a few Inhabitants come in Competition with their Schemes & Views, & that if no Concession was to be made on either Side, this province would be as unhappy & wretched as that where all the Inhabitants should class Self-Defence among the Crimina Majora; that from Mess^{rs} Penns having made the Province or People of Pens^a a present of £5000 there was room to suspect