

Letter Bk. III used their Influence & Interest to oppose such a Measure; whether this proceeded from Timidity or a Suspicion that the Governm^t would not be able to make good its Claim I cannot say but it certainly has much contributed to confirm many People in an Opinion that the Money is actually collected contrary to, or at least without the Sanction of a Law. As it is very obvious what must be the Consequence of their entertaining such Sentiments I shall not enlarge thereon, but only inclose you a Copy of a Paper which has been lately handed about here & I am told subscribed by a great number of the People, for my own part I am throughly convinced that their Complaints with regard to those particulars are unreasonable & entirely without foundation & that if His Ldp had but Resolution enough to let the matter be brought to a Hearing before the Council such a Judgment would be given or Order made as would give His Ldp Satisfaction, make the people easy & at the same time make them cautious how they engage in Controversy hereafter. They are not apprized of all that can be said in Support of His Ldp's Claim, & a Report of a Committee of a late Lower House of Assembly shews in my Opinion that they would have very little to advance or urge agst him. Upon my mentioning the unhappy Condition of the Province on Account of these Disputes to M^r Calvert he seemed to give me hopes that His Ldp would be willing to bring them to a Conclusion, but His Ldp in His Instructions peremptorily forbids me to hear any proposal concerning the Appointment of an Agent for that purpose. however as I foresee that I shall when the Assembly meets again be addressed on this Subject, I have got an Account or State of the several Revenue Laws (that have been enacted from time to time) made out & have sent it to M^r Calvert desiring him at least to get an Opinion thereon for me, which would possibly have weight with the Assembly & perhaps satisfy them as to the Collection of the Duties abovementioned. Should M^r Calvert for fear of the Expence that will attend it, or on any other Account decline or neglect to comply with my Request Let me beg the favour of you to peruse the Copy that I herewith send, & if you do not get an Opinion subscribed by the Attorney or Sollicitor Gen^l I hope you will favour me with your own Sentiments thereon. The Account or State might have been much abridged was it only drawn up for the Opinion of a Lawyer or for the Perusal of Persons of Learning or Judgment, but as it was thought proper to adapt it to the Capacity & Comprehension of every Planter in the Province it's Length or Prolixity was unavoidable & necessary to prevent its being suggested that the Quotations were unfair & imperfect, that any material Parts were suppressed or partial Representations