

to pay due deference to such regulations as were thought necessary for the public Interest and have contributed with cheerfulness to the general service; they therefore feel with the most poignant concern their late (and flatter themselves) unmerited proscription. C. J.<sup>2</sup>

They have however the consolation to declare, that if they have erred, it was without consciousness of guilt, and hope integrity of intention may not be imputed to them as wilful disobedience. On this subject the discernment of their present Judges renders prolixity of argument unnecessary, and to their decision they submit with respectful acquiescence.

On what particular part of the Sixth Resolve the Committee have thought proper to ground their sentence is not certainly known; if conjecture is indulged the following words may be supposed to comprise the accusation, "that no merchant or other person ought to ingross any goods, wares or merchandise whatsoever." As laws should admonish before they condemn, it is difficult to conceive with what propriety this restrictive Rule could be applied to the case in question. Ingrossing is a legal Idea, an unjust accumulation of property, with an intent to sell it again which by enhancing the price tends to the public injury. If the acquisition is lawful, one constituent part of the Offence is wanting, and the term in the Resolve is not properly applicable. To say that the word may have an extensive import to comprehend what is not expressed would be to confound language, and entrap the unwary. With submission permit us to observe that we ought not in these instances to substitute artificial for real conviction and thereby give footing to a Code of polity which may hereafter be turned to the destruction of that manly Freedom for which we are now contending. Who can be safe if we resort to subtle and criminal construction as the Glossary of common Life.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the proceedings of the committee may be re-considered. If they have erred let concessions deprecate Resentment, it is however hoped that rectitude of intention will shield them from imputed guilt.

At a meeting of the General Committee for the County of St Marys held at the Court House in Leonard Town, on Tuesday the Eighteenth day of July Anno Domini seventeen hundred & Seventy five

M<sup>r</sup> John Reeder (Jun<sup>r</sup>) in the Chair.

Among other were the following proceedings (to wit) On complaint made by Doctor Henry Reeder, against M<sup>r</sup> Archibald Campbell, Factor for John Glassford Esquire & Company, at their Store in Leonard Town for refusing him goods for ready money. And at the same time declaring, that he would not sell his goods for cash but for Tobacco only.