

Submitt themselves & all that is deare to them to be disposed Lib. R. R.  
of by the votes of the ffreemen that have nothing, & that can  
as easily carry themselves out of the reach of Lawes by them-  
selves made, to the prejudice of the ffreeholder as change  
their Cloaths Wee doe promise to propound the case of the  
indigent ffreeman to his Lord<sup>pp</sup> att his returne, & to offer him  
such reasons & motives as may incline him to permitt the  
next Election to be made by the Votes of all the ffreemen  
indifferently. this is all that lyes in our powers to doe in this  
case, & this we doubt not but to Obtaine from his Lordshipp,  
if the quiett demeanour of the ffreemen in the interim doe but  
concurr with our Endeavours, to Oblige his Lordshipp to have  
a favourable regard of their Interests.

The last part which concernes the poore ffreemans paying  
equall Taxe with the rich, we must needs looke upon as a  
peice of Sophistry, imposed upon the credulous ffreemen by  
some malignant Spiritt, who Repines that he cannot as well  
Cheate the publique of the ffreemans Leavy, as he hath  
beguiled the ffreeman out of his Crop. What ffreeman is itt  
that ever paid for more then his own head? & what rich man  
is itt that hath not paid for every Servant & Slave he hath?  
but put the case itt be hard the poore ffreeman should pay as  
much for his head, as the Rich man doth for his owne head,  
why must my Lord or his Governo<sup>r</sup> & Councill beare the  
blame of this which my Lord himselfe cannot helpe without  
the consent of an Assembly? If the Wisdome of future  
Assembly shall thinke fitt to alter the way of paym<sup>t</sup> of the  
Publique Taxes hitherto continued in this Province in Vir-  
ginia & indeed in all the Governm<sup>ts</sup> in the West Indies Wee  
dare undertake for his Lordshipp that he shall consent to itt.  
And itt will be a thing extreamly pleasing to him to finde that  
mans labour is not the sole Riches of his Province, & that our  
Riches from transitory are now become Reall & permanent  
That this happy day may once arive hath bin the long &  
unwaryed Endeavour of my Lords deceased ffather And we  
dare boldly promise will be the constant Employ of my Lord  
that now is. Our helping hand shall never be wanting to  
procuring the peace & plenty of every individuall in the  
Province, which truly consists in the due preservacōn of his  
Lordshipp's rights & the Protection of the People in their just  
Right of libertyes To both these as Judges we are indifferently  
sworne, & to each part of our duties we hold our selves  
equally Obliged And therefore we doe protest in the sight of  
God & men, as we are resolved not to see the least part of his  
Lordshipp's right diminished without his Lordshipp's consent,  
nor any of his Lawes slighted Or contemned, so we will p. 109  
unfainedly mediate with his Lord<sup>pp</sup> & the next Assembly for