

Coll^o Ward from the Upper House Delivers M^r Speaker the L. H. J. Bill for relieving the Inhabitants of this Province from the hardships they may lie under by reason of the Scarcity of Tobacco this year thus Endorst Viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly Oct^r 28th 1724

Gentlemen.

On Reading and considering this Bill we observe that altho we find it to be drawn as near as may be, Consonant & agreeable to the Report of the Conferrees appointed upon this Occasion, and further Directions of both Houses of Assembly relating thereto, yet upon Second consideration thereof many Inconveniencies do occur to us, which will render the Bill more Injurious than Advantageous to the Good people of this province; the Inconveniencies we apprehend are as follows.

First, we are apprehensive that it will be a great Inducem^t to Perjurie.

Secondly, that it gives some people an opportunity to delay payment this year, tho' they have Tobacco, For many men may make Oath on or before the Twenty fifth day of December, that they have no Tobacco nor any due to them, that they can get, and yet Collect great Sums afterwards, and dispose of them as they please without applying any part to the discharge of their publick or private Debts.

Thirdly, That people being obliged by oaths to apply all their Tobacco to particular Engagem^{ts} will be Injurious to other Creditors especially merch^{ts} and late Sherriffs.

Fourthly, it is no benefit to poor people for if they must apply all their Tobacco to the discharge of their Engagem^{ts} They will not have any to Supply the Greatest necessities so p 167 that the remedy is worse than the Disease.

Fifthly, that Tradesmen and others who never make it their Employment to make Tobacco, may evade paying not only their private Contracts, but publick dues also.

Sixthly, it will be productive of a Multitude of Law suits for Creditors finding themselves aggrieved by Colour of this Law will be more severe with their Debtors for the time to come.

Seventhly, that as in some former Laws so in this many unforeseen difficulties and mischiefes will arise in the Execution of it; for which reasons we cannot agree to pass this Bill as it now Stands.

Sign'd p order Sam^l Skippon Cl Up. Ho.