

U. H. J. Sent to the Lower House by Philip Lee Esq^r

The following message is prepared and sent to the Lower House by John Rousby Esq^r viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly October the 24th 1728

Gentlemen

In answer to your Message yesterday by James Harris Esq^r & M^r Key we take leave to assure you that as we have hitherto done so are we ever determined to avoid disputes that are not absolutely necessary as well as to exert our endeavours equally with your House for the publick good Welfare of the Country

We are apprehensive that your House might misapprehend our intention in that part of our message which relates to the deduction to be made of Officers Fees and therefore take leave to Acquaint you that in proposing the present regulation should be conformable to that in 1725 we did not intend any further deduction should be made from those fees altho A Tobacco Law should be made for lessening the Quantity of Tobacco for we are of opinion that the fees in that Regulation are so small that if the price of Tobacco should Advance upon making a Tobacco Law those fees
p. 364 would be but a bare sufficiency for a Support of the Several Officers but because it may be Objected that perhaps Tobacco may rise beyond what is now expected we are willing that a Liberty be given to the people to pay those fees in money at the rate of ten shillings p Cent by a certain day and this we hope if Tobacco should advance will encourage the Importation of Money and prove a double Advantage to the good people of this Province & we are likewise very willing that any omissions in the regulation of Fees Anno 1725 should be now Supplied.

As to the power given to the Deputy Commissarys we must still insist upon its being reinvested in the Commissary General who as we are Informed has found by Experience that the publick Advantage and convenience to the Orphans and Widows consists in its being so for by his care and Circumspection (agreeable to the Character you gave him) Errors and mistakes frequently committed by the several Deputy Commissarys to the prejudice of those helpless People have been found out and ordered to be regulated and so cautious have some Gentlemen in that Office formerly been as not to suffer any Commission to issue to pass any Account unless the greatest and most urgent necessity required it and we cannot but apprehend those poor Orphans and Widows you are so much concern'd for will be more happy (and not so liable to Imposition) under the Administration of one upright nursing father rather than under the administration of twelve men who by an extensive power