

Clergy are in no wise disappointed of their Expectation under the U. H. J. Encouragement of the same

2^{dly} We answer that instead of depriving the Clergy of the fourth part of the 40^l of Tobacco ꝓ Poll we have taken care in all human possibility to make three fourths of the Allowance to them of greater Value than the whole by making a Law to restrain the Inhabitants from cultivating much above half the Quantity of Tobacco (poor Excepted) which was generally tended in Order to better the Staple thereof A Law design'd as well for Advancing the Interest of the Clergy in particular as all the Kings Subjects in General and to make the Abatement equal the Allowances of both Houses of Assembly Lawyers fees and debts due to and from the Inhabitants are Subject to the same deduction and no repeal made of any part of that Law the deduction being to continue no Longer than the Advantage reaped by the Tobacco Law

3^{dly} Nor can we Conceive how it can be any Offence to God or Destructive to Religion for the good People of this Province to endeavour to advance the Interest of the Clergy by attempting to make three fourths of the 40^l of Tobacco ꝓ Poll amount to more in value than the whole did Generally produce to the several Incumbents and therefore we hold it Absolutely necessary that the Bill mentioned do pass this House seing in all Probability both Clergy and Laity will in their Several Stations receive a proportionable Advantage thereby

Signed ꝓ Order Geo. Plater Cl Up Ho.

A Message from the Lower House by Col^o Gale and three more viz.

By the Lower House of Assembly November the 2^d 1728

May it please your Honours

In Answer to your Message of this day by Benjamin Tasker Esq^r we were in hopes that the reasons which were mentioned in our message of the 31st of October by John Beale Esq^r & Col^o Belt why we could not depart from the words in the Judges Oath by Addition of the words as are was Expressed in such plain words, viz. that our Constitution would be brought into Question upon almost every dispute might have been Satisfactory to Convince your Honours that we cannot make the Addition you propose & we are further Confirmed in our Resolution by the very Message which you mention to have been sent on the third of November 1724 for it is worthy of Observation that the words Is in that message is in the singular number and restrained to our Usage and not to the Laws of England and which if so designed would have been in the