

U. H. J. likely than the former Act to lessen the quantity of Tobacco, as much as was hoped it would have done, that Reduction would not indicate our being dishonourable unjust or ingrateful to his Lordship, since nothing was taken from him, that his Lordship was entitled to by any former Law, nor anything more done but passing a Bill to pay his Lordship a Duty on Tobacco instead of his Rents & Alienations for One Year, which if passed into a Law, is a voluntary Contract, the Terms whereof are understood on both Sides, & the Contracting Partys have it in their Power to agree or disagree to it; thus the Case stands, & how it or any other Case so circumstanced, will warrant a Charge of Injustice or Ingratitude against any of the Contracting Partys, We recommend it to your Honours seriously to consider

p. 60 Since the Provision made by the former Act would not answer the End of making it, We thought it absolutely necessary (in Regard making too great Quantities of Tobacco, is universally allowed to be One & a very great Cause of the Calamities the People of Maryland labour under) to supply (at least) in part the Defects therein; And We think it very probable that the Reduction proposed to six thousand plants & the other Restrictions contained in the Bill for that purpose, would be of Service to the Country, by greatly lessening the Quantity of Tobacco: And if Tobacco Debts were not subject to a Defalcation in Proportion to the Reduction in the Crops Your Honours cannot but know, that several, even a very great number of the Inhabitants would have very little Tobacco left, wherewith to procure themselves necessarys, & consequently the Amendment of the Trade would rather encrease than lessen their Miserys. As to obliging some People to take money for Part of their Tobacco Debts, it is but the same Provision that was made last Session, which Your Honours, then agreed to, and the Reason (we conceive) still subsists. How it is possible to avoid some Inequality in the proposed Deduction, We know not, the making of Laws that may be beneficial to Our Country in General (tho disadvantageous to some particular Persons) being the highest Perfection We can hope to arrive at.

We are extremely surprized & indeed alarmed at the Reasons Your Honours alledge, as more particularly inducing you to reject the new Tobacco Bill Viz. that is a Bill of the same Nature (some few Circumstances excepted) with the former, against the Sanction to which in Great Britain publick Oppositions it is well known, are made. That any Opposition is made against the Sanction to it, We never knew or heard of, nor can we conceive the End or Purpose of such Opposition; for We beg Leave to acquaint Your Honours that an ample & full Power of Legislation is lodged in this Province, & that a Law enacted in the usual & customary form here by the legislative Authority has all the force & Effect of a Law, without any