

That you have been indeed informed by the several Naval Officers that they levy that money by Virtue of An Act of Assembly made in the year 1704 Entituled An Act for settlement of An Annual Revenue upon her Majestys Governor within this province for the time being

L. H. J.
Lib. No. 45

This manner of expressing your selves would really have inclined me to believe, that you had not before known by what Law the said twelve Pence π hhd had been collected till the Information above mentioned from the said Naval Officers; was it not so notoriously known that the said law of 1704 was not only under the Consideration of the Lower House of Assembly in the year 1733 but has been greatly canvassed in Conversation by the members of every Assembly that has met since that time, and that it has been universally looked upon by every part of the Legislature since that time as a law in force and being till some Gentlemen of new light (for I find We have new Light in Politicks as well as in Religion) lately undertook to undeceive us in this particular

If the said Law should be found not to be in force I must own I should be greatly surprized, as I believe many others would be of far greater knowledge and Experience than myself, but shall with all duty & Submission be at all times ready to submit myself to the Judgment of Superiors at home where neither the Artful Practices of Arbitrary and corrupt Governors nor the causeless clamours of self Interested and ill designing men can cover themselves with those disguises which are but too often put on before less Penetrating Judges, but everything must appear in its true and proper light and be judged of accordingly

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I must confess indeed that the opinion of the Lower House of Assembly for which I must at all times have the greatest Regard would have had more weight with me upon this occasion, had you not laid before me the Grounds and Reasons of it, set forth at large in the report annex to your address in which without taking upon me to determine what must be left to the Judgment of our Superiors as I mentioned before I hope I shall be able to point out a few Mistakes and misapprehensions that will be a sufficient excuse for me even with your House, for not considering the several Acts for raising money for the support of this Government in the same light that you have done

It might tire your Patience was I to follow you in the Recital of the several Acts of 1671, 1674, 1676, 1692, 1699, 1704, 1715, 1716, 1717 which take up many pages therefore shall only take notice of some mistaken Facts, and your Conclusions from them of so very Material a Nature that they seem to destroy the whole Foundation of your long Argumentation

In order to destroy the Validity of the Act of 1704 your Chief Argument is that tho a Law of the very same nature was given to the Crown in the year 1692 the said Law of 1692 was not deemed by