

L. H. J.
Lib. No. 45

We are far from desiring to wrong his Lordship of what properly belongs to him, but cannot help complaining of that prerogative and authority he has lately taken upon himself to Vacate his own Grants of land to the people of this Province on Account of Surplus or any other matter, as Invasive of our propertys, & a thing not to be done by any Subject

The Naval Officers of this province we think are or ought to be Subject, to the laws of it yet notwithstanding the express clause in the paper currency Act that all contracts to be made from and after, the publication of that Act should be paid and satisfied in Bills of Credit, they to this time have Obliged Masters of all Ships or Vessels entering or Clearing with them to pay their fees in Gold or Silver. Strange! that the holding an Office (the fees and perquisites whereof arise from the labour and Industry of a People) should set persons above the law and Invest them with A Power to oppress that People

The last thing we shall trouble your Excellency with in this Address is a Priviledge lately invented and claimed by the members of his Lordships council. It is well known that the greater number of the Gentlemen of that Board are possessed of Offices of the greatest profit and trust in the Province some being Treasurers, some Trustees of the Paper Currency and others Naval Officers; yet those Gentlemen being called upon to give an Account of the Countrys Money refuse to answer in Person alledging it below the dignity of their House as they term it to appear before the House of Delegates much less any Committee of it We think it the Countrys undoubted right to call all those who have the collecting keeping or disposing of the publick Money to Account for it nor can we foresee any other consequence from this Usurped dignity, than that the possessors of those Offices may with Impunity commit what frauds Extortions or Embezzlements they shall think fit by being adopted into his Lordships Council

These Sir amongst many others too numerous at this time to Recite are Grievances which the people whom we represent daily suffer, which call aloud for Redress and which we without a manifest Violation of the Trust reposed in us cannot forbear in the most humble manner to lay before your Excellency.

p. 885 We have taken the liberty to annex hereunto several Reports of Our Committee of Aggrievances concerning many of the Facts herein Complained of, and do flatter our selves that after mature Consideration we shall not fail of your Excellencys Assistance towards our Relief. was read Approved and Ordered to be ingrossed

To which aforegoing Address were annexed the following reports viz.

The Report of the Committee of Aggrievances dated in May 1739 about 14 Tunnage