

August 24
Liber No. 78
p. 367

Revenue, and public Monies and Tobacco, and the Demands and Debts of Government. For what Purpose is he to consult them? not merely to disregard their Opinion, and insult them, by pursuing or adhering to a different System or Conduct from what they point out; but we presume it was at least supposed by the Assembly that the Executive were capable of judging what was most agreeable to law and conducive to the public advantage, especially after they had heard the Observations of the Intendant. We are at a Loss to discover how the Exercise of these assumed Powers is incompatible with the Office of Intendant, or will render it unnecessary, and will be much obliged to the Intendant to be so condescending as to point out in a plain and explicit Manner; for could we be convinced such a Consequence would result, from our Interference, we would decline the Exercise of Powers so offensive to the Intendant, and wait with Patience for the numerous and important Benefits which the People do, and have a Right to expect, and we are sensible might be produced by a judicious Management of the Office. Among many other Reasons which might be urged to prove the Executive have a controuling Power over the Intendant, we shall suggest only one, by way of Question, which we think will have your Assent. Suppose a Change of Circumstances, not disagreeable to the present Intendant, should hereafter place a Man in Office, selfish, ambitious and altogether inattentive to the public Interest, and he should, in the Recess of the Assembly, in Stead of managing the Specifics, and public Money according to Law, and for the Advantage of the State, waste and pervert them to the Accomplishment of his own sinister Views; ought the Executive in such a Case, or in any Case similar to it, to interpose their Authority and prevent him from acting a Part so base and detrimental to the State? It would appear from your Representation of our Letter to M^r Morris, the Copy of which he sent to you, that we had actually agreed to dispose of Specifics at half their Value, at all Events. Even if it were possible for you to be so much mistaken, common Charity should have prompted you to tell the whole Truth, and then you would have added our laudable Motive for making so ruinous a Bargain. But Sir, we have it under your Hand that you were not mistaken, and you well know that in telling M^r Morris we would supply Money for the Transportation of Cloathing to the southern Army, at a Time when that Army was naked and in extreme Distress for Cloathing, "even if we were obliged to sell Specifics at half their Value," we meant no more than that he should have the Money, if it could be raised by no other Means that the Sale of Specifics at the very low Prices then given. You confess in your second Letter, tho you deny it in your first, that you have settled with Col^o Rawlings for the Flour he received under his Contract, or naked Agreement, if you like it better, with this Board. This Agreement was made in December last, for Flour at

p. 368