

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
April 28

We have in this, as we did in our second Bill, lengthened the Time for keeping up the Troops, from the 25th of December till the 10th of February next; before which Time undoubtedly an Assembly will be called, who will Judge of the Expediency of keeping them up longer; and hope your Honours will not further press a Measure, so unconstitutional as your Proposal of keeping them up at the Will and Pleasure of the Governor or Commander in Chief of those Forces; if you should, we never will consent to it.

We have regulated in this Bill the Pay of the Officers, nearly to what they have in the neighbouring Colonies; and this we did also in the second. The Governor or Commander in Chief of any Expedition that may be undertaken, we apprehend, will have Power to form his Companies as he pleases. Those of the Fort and Block-Houses, we cannot consent to alter, as the multiplying Commanding Officers will too much increase the Expence.

A Fort-Adjutant and Gunner at the Fort we do not conceive necessary; and the Arms, when out of Repair, may be exchanged and repaired at much less Expence than would accrue from keeping a Gun-Smith in constant Pay, at $2/6$ per Day, as you propose.

The Surgeon's Pay we have rated at 6 s. per Day, and Medicines found him, which will, we hope, be thought a handsome Reward for his Service, and so it was in our second Bill. We did in our second Bill, and we have in this, made sufficient Provision against Mutiny and Desertion, and the Entertainment of Deserters. To the Election of Collectors of the Duty on Wine and Spirituous Liquors, by the several Vestrymen and Church-Wardens, we had good Reason to hope for your Concurrence, as being a Method readily agreed to in our Inspection-Law; however, as you have twice refused it, we have now appointed, for Collectors, the several Sheriffs, who, as they are Gentlemen already appointed by the Government to such considerable Trust, we conceive, will not be objected to by your Honours; and they are to give Bond in £400 as you propose; and this we do, urged by the Considerations abovementioned; nevertheless, insisting on our undoubted Right to the Nomination of Commissioners or Collectors of every new Tax or Duty, which may be imposed upon the People for any Purpose whatever.

We cannot imagine you will refuse to pass a Bill of the Importance this is of, purely because the Wealthy, Opulent, and Luxurious, are to pay a Duty on some of the Liquors they will consume, as well as the Poor, the Laborious, and the Indigent Part of the Community, on the most they will expend for the Term of Five Years: Nor do we see the dangerous Tendency of such a Tax, as there is not any Power given to the Collectors of it to enter the House of private Consumers on any Pretence; but it depends upon their Integrity to account for the Tax without Molestation, or pay a Sum certain, half