

what you have already urged, and perhaps those on which you principally found your Objection to this Part of our Bill.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
March 14

And, may it please your Honours, in return for your Opinion, that the Bill is in many Parts improper, and that some Parts of it, if passed into a Law, would be so far from promoting the End which you suppose is designed, that hardly any Thing could be imagined more destructive thereto, we can only give you our Opinions, that it is in every Part proper, and if passed into a Law, would be so far from being destructive of the Ends we suppose designed by all of us, that hardly any Thing could be imagined more conducive thereto.

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Our own Interests will always direct us in some Measure, to encourage the Settlement of the back and remote Parts of this Province, and we are confident, his Majesty's constant Attention to his most remote Interests, will induce him to encourage that of his Land behind us, with good British Subjects, as a Means of preventing the further Encroachments of his Enemies on these his American Dominions, at the same Time that his Troops are employed against them; and we cannot prevail on ourselves to believe, that this Bill will have any Effect to the contrary, or seems in the least calculated to impede such a Settlement. And we leave it to your Honours Consideration, whether it can be reasonably expected that the People of this Province should pay a Bounty towards the Settlement of his Lordship's uncultivated Lands; and whether the Duty of 5s. per Poll, imposed by this Bill, on the Importers of Indented Servants, can have any Tendency towards deterring such Servants from coming among us, as they are not in any Manner interested in the Payment of the Duty.

We cannot but be surprized at your fear, that the Clause for imposing an additional Duty on Convicts, (to be applied for his Majesty's Service), may be deemed to clash with his Majesty's Authority, and that by consenting thereto, you may draw a Censure from the Throne, and run the Risque of incurring his Majesty's Displeasure; as the Persons who contract for the Transportation of those Criminals will be amply rewarded, notwithstanding that Duty, by the Allowance made by Act of Parliament, for Payment of their Passages, and the high Prices they sell them to the Inhabitants of this Province.

We could on our Parts if it were regular, or they were wanting, suggest many Reasons in support of our Bill, but we are persuaded we have already given such Answers to your Objections against it, as cannot fail of convincing you of the Propriety thereof, in its present Form. And we hope our fervent honest Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and the Common Cause, which has repeatedly actuated us to vote such generous Aids towards rendering effectual his Royal Intentions, will be no longer suppressed by your Honours Nonconcurrency with the Bill, we so long since formed for that very desir-