

Person, but will you thence infer that he would chuse to undertake it under the Strictnesses you have imposed for two p Cent.

U. H. J.
Liber No. 35
May 4

It is notorious that if every Sheriff was rigorously to execute his Office it wo:^d prove extremely distressing to a great Number of People, and that every good natured Man in this Office is obliged to give such Indulgencies to the People as are attended with no small Risk to himself; the Salary paid by Lord Baltimore to the Sheriffs for collecting his Quit Rents /by which his Lordship has saved the Commission of 5. p. Cent and not 10: p: Cent. as you say/ has been a considerable Saving to his Lordship; but is your Inference just, that because the Sheriffs are his Lordship's Collectors for a Commission of 10 p. Cent. which is more considerable than they receive from any other Person, which in no Instance exceeds 6: p. Cent. he ought to receive only a Commission of two p: Cent. for executing the Duty of a Collector under your Bill which would be attended with more Trouble & Risk? A Sheriff can hardly be liable to the Proprietary for any Rents due from his Tenants which he has not a Security for/ we mean the Land chargeable with the Rent, but that can't be said in Respect of the Tax upon Chattels which may be removed or disposed of before the Sheriff can conveniently execute.

Upon the Whole Gentlemen, tho' we will not consent to establish the Partiality introduced by your Bill, yet it is as far from our Inclination as from our Interest to give extravagant Rewards to any Persons who might be employed in the Execution of it, which you know would be as burthensome to us as any others who might be affected thereby

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Tis true that the Commissioners of the Loan Office were contrary to the established Usage directed by the £40000: Act to put in Suit the Bonds of some Defaulters, and when we see that when the Exercise of a Power has been permitted in any Instance of little Consequence this Permission is set up as a Precedent surely we can't be blamed for endeavouring to bring Things back to their former Establishments.

Any proper Precaution to prevent the public Moneys sinking in the Pockets of Collectors and to compel the speedy Payment thereof that it may be applied to the public Service it is our joint Interest to promote, and we think it would be a prudent Regulation to direct the Commissioners of the Loan Office to return the Names of all Defaulters to the Governor that their Bonds may be sued by his Order when it may be expedient, and that without any public Application to his Excellency for the Purpose; this Method will answer the Design you mention, be more agreeable to the Usage of the Province and as those whose Bonds will be liable to be put in Suit must be charged at all Events with Costs, Mistake and Partiality ought to be strongly guarded against