

to the Assessors, and that the unlimited Power not only of judging, but even guessing which you have vested them with, we think might be attended with much Inconvenience.

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

Your Remark upon our Objection to that Part of the Bill by which all the Plate and ready Money in every Person's Possession is to be discovered to all the Inhabitants of the County wherein such Person may reside would have been prevented if you had not thought proper to split it for the Conveniency of framing your Answer.

Our Objection was that few prudent Men would chuse to publish to all the Inhabitants of the Counties they live in, or even to their Domestic Servants all their Plate and ready Money as it might be too great an Encouragement to Rapine. You remark upon this " that ready Mony laying at Hazard should be put into Circulation. If there be Quantities of Plate so hidden from the World by any Person that even his Domestics are unacquainted with it, it is become an useless Treasure and it is time it should some Way be rendred useful to the Community tho' the Owner may not chuse to use it himself "

We don't suppose you mean that it would be better to have ready Mony and Plate stolen than that the Owner should do what he pleases with it, but we can't conceive why a Discovery made by your Bill might not be as dangerous as by any other Method. however you'll be pleased to observe that we did not speak of Quantities of Plate hidden from Domestics whatever you have been pleased to make us say

As you have intimated to us that the military Parts of the Bill may probably be amended to our Satisfaction if we don't think our Objections have been obviated by your Answers, it will be sufficient on this Head to observe to you that your Answers are very unsatisfactory.

p. 326

We are well pleased to find that unnecessary Obstructions to the Passage of the Journals of Accounts will not for the future be thrown in, and that you are now convinced they can't promote the Interest of your Constituents.

Your Hint that you expect the Assembly will sit by the last of September would have been more proper to the Governor who is the only Judge of that Matter. We believe we may say that if an Assembly at that Time shall appear to his Excellency to be necessary it will then sit, but if not, he will not be inclined to add to the public Debt.

As to the Tax upon Lord Baltimore's Estate in the Manner you would impose it, it does not appear to us to be so certainly just and reasonable as you seem to think. All his real Estate except his Quit Rents we have agreed shall be taxed, but the Quit Rents we think are upon a very different Footing from the rest of his Estate & that his Lordship would have good Reasons to object to any Imposition upon them and we shall only add to what we said in our former