

U. H. J. Message that whatever Probability you may think there is of the
 Liber No. 35 Quit Rents of the Proprietary of Pensilvania being taxed from the
 May 4 Intelligence you may have received we are unacquainted with it and
 that it can't at present have much Weight with us.

The Quit Rent reserved in the old Grant, whether there was any purchase Money paid or not /in many Instances you know Nothing was paid/ was we presume thought to be as much as the Proprietary deemed it prudent to demand of his Tenants who had many Difficulties to struggle with, and would be put to a great Expence in supporting the Government and defending the Province, but can it be seriously contended that after the Province was well settled and Lands grew valuable he could not with Justice alter the Terms of his future Grants in Proportion to their Increase of Value? had his Lordship attempted to impose new Terms upon old Grants you would have Reason for your Exclamation, but as he has made no such Attempt you have none.—You ask if the Undertaking the sole Burthen to defend the Province was a Consideration in our original Grants why did the Proprietary alter the Conditions of taking up Lands from two Shillings p 100 Acres to four Shillings, and from that to 10/. Rent, and why the Purchase Mony from two Pounds to five Pounds

p. 327 Any one unacquainted with the Terms upon which Lands are granted here who should read this Passage in your Message would suppose that the present Rent reserved upon every one hundred Acres is 10/. and that where 10/: Rent is paid for one hundred Acres the Caution or Purchase Money has been five Pounds, and therefore it is proper for us to observe that the Rent reserved is four Shillings only p. 100 Acres. that there have been but very few Grants ever made upon which a Rent of 10./ p. 100 Acres has been reserved, and that in the Instance where there has been a Reservation of 10/: Rent p 100 Acres the Caution or Purchase Mony was only 40./. We supposed it to be Part of his Lordship's Consideration, or Expectation if you please when he granted his Lands whether under the old or new Terms, that his Tenants would defend them and support every other necessary Expence of the Government and therefore he was the more moderate in his Demands and we thought also that his Tenants considered his Grants in this Light from their never having called upon him to contribute to these Purposes out of the Rents they paid him, and as we think it can't be denied that the Lands lately granted under the new Terms are as valuable to his Tenants as those were originally which were granted upon the old Terms, and his Tenants are equally enabled by the Smallness of the Rent they now pay /tho' greater than what they formerly paid/ to defend their Lands; we are not convinced that any Alteration of the Terms can give his Tenants a Right to claim now a Contribution of his Lordship out of his Quit Rents, which they had not an equal