

Convicts, tho' that Report treats of nothing else, as to presume, contrary to the Report upon which that Address is founded, and with which that House had concurred, that they (the Officers) had Entered them under the Title of Convicts, tho' they were simple Servants for Seven Years;" we shall only in Answer to this, recite the Part of that Address which your Excellency here remarks upon, as it will be sufficient to shew, that Exactness is not so inherent in your Excellency, as to be Proof against all Examination; for we shall not presume that your Excellency could possibly be wanting in the strictest Regard to Truth and Candour. The Words of the Address are these: "Who (the Naval-Officers) notwithstanding they have received the Duty on Servants for Seven Years and upwards, from many Masters of Vessels, have nevertheless omitted to receive it from others, because (as we presume) they (the Masters of Vessels) have Entered them under the Title of Convicts." Before we leave this Part of your Message, we must trouble your Excellency with an Extract of your Message of the 17th of May, 1757, in Answer to the Address here mentioned, in these Words: "I am advised that the Refusal of any Masters of Vessels to pay a Duty on Convicts by them imported into this Province, would not justify the Naval-Officer in refusing to Enter them." By this Act it clearly appears, that whatever may have since happened to alter your Opinion, that at the Time that Address was presented, your Excellency considered it in the Light we do, as including Convicts under the general Name of Servants for Seven Years. And now give us Leave to ask, What could induce your Excellency, upon a View of these Papers, so clear in themselves, and so consistent with each other, either to believe the Representations of that House unjust, or our Complaints in Consequence of them, unreasonable?

We shall now, without the least Difficulty, give your Excellency a full and direct Answer to your plain Question, viz. "Do you insist upon the Naval-Officers Collecting, under the Act of Assembly made in 1754, for his Majesty's Service, the Duty of 20 s. p Head upon Convicts Transported by Virtue of the Statute, or, Do you not?" We do insist (and shall till better Reasons than any hitherto offered induce us to alter our Opinion) that the Naval-Officers Collect, under the Act of Assembly made in 1754, for his Majesty's Service, the Duty of 20 s. per Head upon all Servants imported into this Province to serve for Seven Years or upwards (except as therein excepted) be they Convicts or Servants of any other Denomination: Conscious as we are of the warmest Affection and Zeal for the Constitution, and Reverence for the Laws of our Mother Country, and moreover possessed with the strongest and most ardent Desire to be more immediately under their benign Influence, which we take this public Occasion to avow to your Excellency, and the World; we see not the Imprudence, nor do we apprehend we shall be liable to the

L. H. J.
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p. 73