Liber No. 50 April 19

L. H. J. did, imposing the Duty; for we take it to be clear in Law, that Customs and Duties on all Goods imported, arise due to their Imporp. 77 tations, and we are confirmed in this Opinion by the constant Practice at the Custom-House at Home, not to grant a Warrant for Landing of any Goods till the Duties are paid, unless where Goods are expressly Bondable by Act of Parliament: So that though the Duty on Servants had not been expressly directed to be paid at the Time of Entry by the Act, it ought to have been then received by the Officers; for as the Act in that Case would not have given any Time for the Payment, it must be intended to be payable immediately. We are further confirmed in this Opinion by the Act of 1715 before mentioned, by which it is Enacted, "That all Masters of Ships and Vessels, or Others, importing Irish Servants into this Province by Land or Water, at the Time of their Entry, shall pay to the Naval Officer, for the Time being, belonging to such Port or Place, where they make their Entry, the Sum of Twenty Shillings Sterling p Poll, &c."

And by the next following Cause of the same Act, it is Enacted, "That for every Negro imported into this Province, either by Land or Water, the Importer or Importers of such Negro or Negroes shall pay unto the said Naval Officer aforesaid, the Sum of Twenty Shillings Sterling p Poll, &c."

And by the next following Clause it is Enacted, "That from and after the Publication hereof, all the Masters of Ships or Vessels, and all other Persons, that shall, by Water, import any Rum, Brandy, Spirits, or Wine, into this Province, shall pay unto the Naval Officer aforesaid, where they make their Entry, the Sum of Three Pence p Gallon, for every Gallon of Rum, Brandy, Spirits, or Wine, so imported into this Province, as aforesaid, &c."

And by a subsequent Clause of the same Act it is Enacted, "That every Master of a Ship or other Vessel, at the Time of his Entry of such Ship or Vessel, where such Liquors shall be imported, as p. 78 aforesaid, shall render, upon Oath, an Account of the Quantity and Quantities of Liquors aforesaid, and the several and respective Naval Officers within this Province, for the Time being, shall, at the Time of their Entry of such Ships or Vessels as aforesaid, take good and sufficient Security, in his Majesty's Name, for the Payment of the said Imposition last mentioned."

From which several Clauses it clearly appears, That though it was not expressly required by the Act, that the Duty thereby imposed upon Negroes should be paid at the Time of Entry, yet it was the plain Intent and Meaning of the Legislature, that as well the Duty upon Negroes as that upon Irish Servants, should be paid at the Time of Entry, by confining the Security, that was hereby directed to be taken, to the Payment of the Imposition last mentioned, which was the Duty upon Liquors, otherwise the Words Imposition last