

would have been left out, and the Words Impositions before inserted in their stead: May we not then venture, upon the Authority of this Act, to conclude it was the Sense of the Legislature in the Year 1715, that the Naval Officers ought not to take Impost Bonds, for Duties imposed upon Imports, unless expressly directed by the Act that laid the Imposition. Having thus endeavoured to shew, and we hope to your Excellency's Satisfaction, that no Impost Bonds ought to have been taken in this Case, because it was an Indulgence to the Trader which the Act did not direct, and was consequently unknown to the Law, we shall next consider that extraordinary Train of Reasoning your Excellency has been led into on the Words of the Act, at the Time of Entry, which if it had not flowed through your Excellency's Pen, we should have thought it descending too low to have taken the least Notice of; but before we proceed we shall insert the Words of the Act in Dispute, which are as follows, viz. "That all Masters of Ships and Vessels, and others, importing Servants into this Province by Land or Water, to serve for the Term of Seven Years or upwards, at the Time of their Entry shall pay unto the Naval Officer, for the Time being, belonging to such Port or Place where they make their Entry, the Sum of Twenty Shillings Current Money p Poll for each Servant; and that all Masters of Ships or Vessels, and others, importing Servants into this Province by Land or Water, to serve by Indenture or Custom of the Country for a less Term than Seven Years, at the Time of their Entry shall pay unto the Naval Officer, for the Time being, belonging to such Port or Place where they make their Entry, the Sum of Five Shillings Current Money p Poll; and that for every Negro imported into this Province, by Land or Water, the Importer or Importers of such Negro or Negroes, shall pay to the said Naval Officer the Sum of Ten Shillings Current Money, over and above the Duties or Impositions already directed and appointed to be paid by an Act or Acts of Assembly of this Province; and that there shall be paid a Duty of Two Pence Current Money p Gallon on all Madeira Wine imported into this Province, by Land or Water, by the Importer or Importers, to the respective Naval Officer of the Port or Place where the same shall be imported or brought into this Province by Land or Water as aforesaid."

L. H. J.
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Upon the bare Perusal of which, your Excellency concluded, that the Expression, at the Time of Entry, must naturally relate to what precedes, viz. Masters Importing Servants to serve for Seven Years or upwards at the Time of Entry, and not to what follows shall pay, &c. This, we readily believe, was on a bare Perusal of the Words; for the least Reflection would have furnished your Excellency with a much more easy and natural Construction, viz. that the Words (at the Time of their Entry) which are the true ones, had Relation to the Time of Payment of the Duty, and that the