

own Risque, and by no Means an established Security for Country Duties; we think it must follow, that the Naval-Officers of the Ports of Patowmack and Annapolis have been guilty of a direct Breach of Duty, in not collecting from the Importers of Convicts the Duties imposed by the Act in 1754 on Servants for Seven Years or upwards, among which Convicts are undoubtedly included: And though your Excellency is pleased to say, " But if nothing less than Suits on those Officers Bonds will Content you, I must beg to be excused; " yet we hope what we have now said may induce you to alter your Resolution; and therefore we do again request, we do insist upon it as a Matter we have a Right to expect from your Excellency, who has the Supreme Executive Power in this Government, and whose Duty it is to preserve the Laws in their full Strength, that Directions be given for the putting the Bonds of these Officers in Suit immediately: And now permit us to assure your Excellency, that as it is our indispensable Duty, so it is our fixed and unalterable Resolution, as faithful Guardians of the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the People, to Protect and Defend them as far as we are able, against all undue Exercise of Power, and every Omission and Neglect of Duty, in the Officers of this Government, from the Highest to the Lowest. This is the Spirit, we presume, that governed the late, it is the Spirit that governs this, House, and shall govern it as long as we have the Honour to set as one Branch of the Legislature of this Province.

L. H. J.
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We come now to the second Head of your Excellency's Message, relative to the Commissioners of the Paper Currency Office, and we shall have no occasion to detain you long upon it. We hoped, as the Monies paid so many Years ago into that Office, by Trippe, Porter, and Bradford, had not been accounted for by the Commissioners, it would have been a Motive with your Excellency more speedily to have complied with our Request to put their Bonds in Suit, in order to compel them to Credit the Public with it: And to satisfy your Excellency that the Commissioners are not intitled to that further Indulgence that you seem inclinable to give them, we beg leave to refer you to the Record of the Proceedings in the several Actions Prosecuted in the Provincial Court, at the instance of a former Lower House of Assembly, on the Sheriffs Bonds of Trippe, Porter, and Bradford, where you may see, that no less than Nine Actions were prosecuted against Trippe, and his Securities, on his Sheriff's Bonds pass'd in the Years 1740, 1741, and 1742; and that in each of those Actions, the said Trippe, and his Securities, severally Plead, that Trippe had paid the several Sums of Money collected by him as Sheriff of Dorchester County, for which his Bonds were severally sued, to the Commissioners of the Paper Office; and upon such Pleading, Issues were joined in all the said Actions; but that One only was Tried, in which the Jury found a General Verdict in favor