

L. H. J.
Liber No. 50
April 26

Bill, is a Business distinct from any other, and must be attended with considerable Trouble and Expence: They have no standing Salary, nor any Clerk appointed that has one; they must necessarily employ a Clerk, and must pay him a considerable Sum of Money for his Trouble: This is sufficient, without enumerating all the Duties of their Office, to distinguish it from that of the Commissioners of the Loan Office, and to shew it was reasonable to give them a full Reward by the Bill.

We cannot devise any better or easier Way of coming at the Knowledge of the Quantum of his Lordship's Manors, and Reserved Lands, than that prescribed by the Bill; however, if the Words, according to the best Information he has, are thought too vague and undeterminate, if better can be pointed out, which may answer the End proposed, we shall readily consent to change them.

We did not look upon the Services required of the Agent by the Bill, to be so considerable, as that he would ask a Reward for them; however as they may possibly be attended with more Difficulty than we imagined, we are not against inserting in the Bill such a Sum as may be thought a reasonable Reward for his Labour. The Service required from the Receiver of the Quit-Rents is only to make out, and deliver to the Commissioners, fair Accounts from his Debt Book, of the Names and Quantities of Acres of every Tract or Parcel of Land within their Counties, and to whom the same belongs or ought to be charged, making a separate Account for each Hundred, as nearly as he can judge; for this the Reward of Forty Shillings, we think (tho' it may not be exactly equal) upon the whole is quite sufficient, and it is scarcely worth while to particularize by the Bill, what each County Receiver shall have. The Duty of the Commissioners of the Land-Tax is new, and quite independent of any other, and as the Execution of the Trust will probably, in the first Instance, be attended with some Difficulty, we are persuaded your Honours, upon this Consideration, will not think 8 s. 7p Day too much for their Trouble.

The Office of Sheriff (who by the Bill is appointed to be Collector) will be sufficiently Lucrative by the several Branches of Business annexed to it, and being obliged by his present Office to account with almost every Person in his County, from whom the proposed Tax is to be collected, he can certainly execute this Office with much less Trouble and Expence than any other Person: Upon this Principle, we presume, the Office of Collectors of the Quit-Rents was annexed to that of Sheriff, and the Salary lowered from Twenty to Ten 7p Cent. and since, for this Reason, the Proprietor has thought fit to lessen the Salary of the Collectors of the Quit-Rents, we hope it will not be objected to, if, for the same Reason, we have given, in the present Instance, a less Salary than the Sheriff usually has on his Collections: We think it reasonable in both Cases.