

L. H. J.
Liber No. 50
May 9

Resolved, That tho' there may have been some Petitions of Claimants upon the Public (which do not at present occur to this House) preferred to the Upper House in the first Instance; tho' some Allowances may have been made and insisted upon by the Upper House, which this House had not considered, or had rejected, and tho' some Claims may have been inserted in the Journal of Accounts, which this House had not considered, or had before disallowed; yet it has been the constant and uninterrupted Usage, for the Claims of almost every Public Creditor to be laid before this House in the first Instance, and to be adjusted and allowed, or rejected, by it; tho' still the Upper House have had a Negative on the Journal of Accounts, in which Allowances were made for those Claims, and that Power this House did not intend to deprive them of (whatever may be their real Right) in the Case of the £2500 appropriated by the Bill, but to allow them a Negative, as they would have had on the Journal had Allowances for those Expences been made therein; and that the most material Claims against the Public in the first Instance preferred to the Upper House, have been of such a Nature as would not have been made against the Public but through that House, and which this House have thought it the Heighth of Injustice to burthen the Public with, and therefore have rejected Time after Time, till they have disappeared.

Resolved, That in all Grants of Aid for his Majesty's Service, and the Defence and Security of this Province, it is just and reasonable that the Lord Proprietary, who is more nearly and immediately interested than almost any of his Tenants, should bear at least an equal Proportion with them of the Taxes necessarily imposed for those Purposes; and that if his Lordship should desire (which we cannot suppose) to be totally exempted from the Payment of a Tax upon so large a Part of his Revenue as his Quit-Rents, it would discover an Inclination to oppress his Tenants, by loading them with that Expence which he himself ought to bear for the Security of his own Property, and betray a Want of Zeal and Loyalty to his most Gracious Sovereign, by not chearfully contributing with the Rest of his Subjects, towards the Defence and Support of his just Rights against the Encroachments of his most inveterate Enemy.

p. 212 Resolved, That a Tax similar to that imposed by the Bill upon Lucrative Offices, Employments, and Benefices, is commonly imposed in England; and it is the more reasonable and just here, as so large a Proportion of the Produce of the People's Labour is given by Law to the Maintainance and Support of the Officers and Clergy.

Resolved, That holding Judicial and Lucrative Offices within this Government by the Supreme Magistrate thereof, this House apprehends is Unconstitutional; but that while he does hold them, it is Reasonable he should be Taxed on the Incomes thereof, in the same Proportion as other Officers are proposed to be Taxed.