

That an Officer may at present be punished by Law for an Illegal Exaction we are not Ignorant, but from a Love of quiet and Ease in some, tenderness in others, and Ignorance and Inability in many more to remedy themselves, the Cause of Complaint Still Subsists.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 52
Nov. 8

We Cannot See how it can be inferred from anything we have proposed or said, that we think the Officers deserve generally to be branded, and we must express our Surprise that your Honours Should insinuate, that an Inquiry by the Country into the Conduct of an Officer, whose probity & humanity is equal to that of any Other Gentleman in this Province, would be harrasing him to humour Ignorance & Credulity, gratify Envy, or appease the Malevolence of Enmity, such Sentiments and Expressions we do not think Applicable to the Conduct of the People of this Province, and we wish were Omitted in the Political Discussions between the branches of the Legislature the Characters of Probity and humanity would Shine the Brighter after every Inquiry, & if there should be any Contrary Characters, they would only be exhibited in the light they ought to be View'd in.

However, as you disagree to the first of these two last propositions, and reject the Other, we shall Contend no more about them at present but leave it to time to evince the Expediency of adopting them hereafter, 'to the total Change of the Species, in which the expences of executing the Law, and the Money payments under it, are ascertained, which is now the only matter of difference between the two houses, We cannot Consent. Dollars notoriously pass in New York and Pennsylvania, with which we have Considerable Commercial Connections at Seven Shillings and Sixpence and upwards, and foreign Gold at or above the Rates mentioned in our Inspection Law; & in Virginia Dollars pass higher than the Statute regulation Contracting Parties here for Several years past have mutually understood, that Gold & Silver at those rates Should be paid in discharge of their Contracts, unless a different Species or rate hath been Stipulated: on this Bottom Subsisting debts generally now Stand, occasioned principally by the Inspection Law Regulation of Coin, and whilst we see the extensive Influence of that Regulation, we are apprehensive that a different Regulation will have the like effect, by drawing after it General Contracts, and a disadvantageous Change of those already made into the Inspection Law Species; a ruinous Consequence should it be into Sterling besides, the Spirit and design of the Statute, we are apprehensive will be frustrated by the Effects of your proposition for the above mentioned Colonies will draw the Specie from hence by its higher Denomination there for these reasons, and as the Statute makes no mention of Gold, we propose, in the framing a New Inspection Law, to regulate foreign Gold as it now Stands in the Old, Ascertainig the Charges of executing the Law in Currency and Sterling, and giving the payer of any of the Inspection Expences, Publick and County levies, Clergys Allowance, Lawyers & Officers

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