

U. H. J.  
Liber No. 36  
Dec. 13

Our Amendment proposes a Satisfaction to M<sup>r</sup> Ross in the usual Manner, your Message imports that he ought to be paid out of the Monies hitherto appropriated to other Purposes. In support of our Opinion we shall proceed to apply, as succinctly as we can, some of the Facts that have been stated, and the Reasoning we have founded thereon, and then answer your Proposition respecting the Manner, in which the Clerk of the Council now, and in future, ought to be paid for his Services to the Public. We take it to be agreed, that the Clerk ought to be satisfied one way or other out of the Public Money, that a Salary is the most convenient Satisfaction, and that the Salary of Nine Thound Six hundred Pounds of Tobacco or Sixty Pounds Currency p Annum is a moderate Allowance: so far our Sentiments coincide with the Sense of all former Assemblys, deducible from the incontestible Fact that, the Clerk of the Council, hath always received a Salary in every Journal of Accounts that hath passed, from the Revolution to this Time, not to mention the more liberal Income he received before that Æra, from Fees and Perquisites, when the Council exercised, under a different Idea of Polity, a more extensive Jurisdiction than we Claim or wish to have: Entertaining the same Principles, and influenced by the same Motives of Justice and Equity, with our respective Predecessors, who have composed the Legislature of this Province from the happy Æra of the Restoration of English Liberties, we conceive, that no Variation from the numerous Precedents, continued without Interruption for so many Years, and established in so many successive Instances of Confirmation, by their most deliberate Acts, ought to take Place, unless the Precedents have been experienced to be inconvenient, or can be clearly proved to be Oppressive. The Use of Precedents must be perceived, when the Inconveniencies of Contention, which flow from a Disregard of Them, are considered, and especially when they are severely felt. When we reflect, that the Intercourse and Privileges of the Members of Political Bodies, the Measures of Justice in Contests of private Property, the Prerogatives of Government, and the Rights of the People are regulated by them.

There is moreover a Reverence due to antient Establishments, adopted & confirmed by subsequent uniform Usage, and a Modesty to be observed in opposing the Sentiments of Those, who have occupied the stations we are now placed in, with at least an equal Reputation of Ability, Integrity, and Vigilance for the Public Good.

Considering the state of the incontrovertible Facts, and the Sanction arising from them, we must be acquitted of all sinister Designs to extort, in the present Conjecture, any Concessions from the Representatives of the People Derogatory from the Rights of their Constituents, there not being the least Colour of a Pretence for any Suggestions, that, availing our selves of the Distresses of the Public Creditors, and the Difficulties the People in general will be involved