

U. H. J. Future no such Allowances should be made. But upon having a particular Account from M<sup>r</sup> Ross for public Services by him done for this Province they would allow what should appear to them to be reasonable” And as we expected an Account would be required this Session according to the Resolve signified in the Message referred to, we directed the Clerk to prepare it conceiving that if upon a View of the Account the Duties performed by Him would appear there could not be any Dispute about his Payment.

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The Construction we put upon this Resolve was, that the usual Allowance in the Journal would be made in Future if on the Exhibition of a particular Account the public Services done by the Clerk of the Council appeared to deserve it. We did not nor have we yet any Reason to infer from any Expressions in the Message or Resolve referred to, that the Manner of Payment would be litigated. In Directing therefore the Account to be prepared there was no Intention to support any Claim beyond the usual Salary if in forming it there should appear to be a larger Sum from the Articles than the Amount of the Salary or if on the other Hand the Articles admissible of precise Charges should fall short of the Salary to reduce it, if upon a Consideration of the other Services not reducible to this Kind of State the Clerk should appear upon the Whole to deserve of the Public the usual Salary.

The giving Notice to the Members of the Council when their Attendance is requisite, the Returns & Custody of Papers in which the Public are concerned and the Obligation he is under of a strict Attendance are so many Services that ought to be considered in forming an Estimate of a suitable Salary to a Gentleman (for of that Rank he is & ought to be) who is appointed to the Office of Clerk of the Council. Wherefore if your superiour Penetration had enabled you to discover as many Errors in the Account, you have taken so much Pains to reduce, as would have brought the whole Sum of all the Articles below the Salary, you would not have established any Conclusion against the Justice of it. Your ingenious Insinuation, that Part of our Message was framed before the Report of our Committee, wants the Foundation of Fact & will probably appear so to your selves, when you consider more sedately with what View the Account was sent to you and of what Articles it consists.

The first Article is that of 270<sup>lb</sup> of Tobacco for Recording an Indenture of Settlement of the Province between Lord Baltimore and others, upon which you ask in a subsequent Part of your Message with what Justice can he Charge the Recording Proprietary Settlements? As you only mean to state the Subject of our Dispute fairly and Candidly, you will easily forgive us when we remark that the Article you object to does not justify the Implication of your Question.