

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 52  
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mittee, evince, that those Revenues were deemed, in the Sense of both King and Parliament, of a public Nature, and for the public Use, and accordingly, we find, have been enquired into and accounted for under the Acts of Parliament last mentioned, and more particularly as to Fines and Forfeitures, they are looked upon, as Part of the Profits arising from the King's Courts of Justice, and are said to go to the King, for the Trouble and Charge he is at in holding Courts & bringing Offenders to Justice. This being the Case with respect to the Crown Revenues, your Committee are of Opinion, that the Lords Proprietary of this Province, cannot claim greater Advantages, Prerogatives, and Immunities, than belong to the Kings of Great Britain, nor ought they to expect the People here to support the Civil Government in every Branch thereof, whilst they dispose at their Will and Pleasure, of all the Revenues appropriated by the Constitution of the Mother Country to public Use. And, altho' our Ancestors did, very improvidently, in the Infancy of the Country, when these Incomes and Revenues of the Lord Proprietary, arising from the Courts of Justice, and otherwise, were inconsiderable, make a perpetual Provision for many of those Expenses, yet when the People are called upon for a further Supply, towards the Support of any of the Officers of his Lordship's Government, not provided for by perpetual Laws, your Committee are of Opinion, that in such Case the People have a Right inherent in the Constitution to call on his Lordship, or his Governor, to render an Account of the Monies arising from those Revenues, and to have the same applied in Case of their Burthens, unless it should appear that those Monies have been already applied to public Uses, and that his Lordship has not the same absolute, uncontrollable Right to them, as to any Part of his private Estate, as has been alledged. And your Committee are also of Opinion, That tho' the Act of Assembly does direct, that the Provincial Amerciaments shall be applied as the Governor and Council shall direct, yet, the Legislature did intend, to such public Use as they should direct, and never meant to give them a private Property therein; and under that Idea we doubt they have heretofore directed them to be paid to the Clerk of the Council, towards his Support as an Officer of the Government. And your Committee are clearly of Opinion, That whenever new Taxes are demanded to defray the Expenses of Government, it becomes the Duty of the Representatives of the People, to have an Account rendered of all Provincial Amerciaments, as well as of all Fines and Forfeitures at the Common Law, and of all Forfeitures received in Virtue of any Laws of this Province limiting the same to the Lord Proprietary, for the Support of Government, that their Constituents may see that all those Monies are rightly applied for the Use declared, and the Province in General thereby eased in the Taxes laid on them, or attempted to be laid on them, for supporting the Expenses of Government

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