

U. H. J. Manners of the people, who may thereby be induced to think, that  
 Liber No. 36 they may disobey what they find in the Observance to be injurious  
 Nov. 20 to their Interest.

The Exorbitancy of the Profits of the Officers must appear, from the Published Lists to be very great indeed, to those who are unacquainted with the Deductions therefrom, They may be assisted with, or form very alarming Estimates from them, but we have Precisely Proposed, that in Lieu of all other Profits Advantages and Emoluments, there may be allowed to the Secretary, Commissary General, and Judges of the Land Office, an Annual Income of £600 Sterling, but this you have rejected If this Income would fall short of the profits which arose from the old Regulation, why not as good Stewards, secure on so fair an Opportunity the overplus for the Publick Use. This we must do you the Justice to say you would  
 p. 518 not decline if a saving was expected; but you think the £600. per Annum too much; we think otherwise, and you are Apprehensive there would not be the same Diligence in advancing the Interest of the Publick, as there is now employed for the Benefit of the Officers.

Extortion or Oppression you would not desire, and if Officers commit the Crime because they gain by it, the Plan is strongly recommended by the very Circumstance that it would take away all Temptation to extort or oppress, but surely there can be very little Ground to imagine that Business on Application would be refused to be done by persons accountable to the Assembly, as well as to the parties applying, that Fees would not be charged for Services when Negligence would be liable to so Easy Detection, and to so severe Animadversion, or that Sheriffs would be less regular in their Collections and returns, when their Accounts would be Subject to their Review of so many Gentlemen, best acquainted with the people in every County of the Province. No Alternative as you have suggested given by the Act of 1747 to the Planters was intended to be taken from them, but a new one was offered which that Act did not give, and the Planter would moreover have had an Opportunity of discharging Fees at the rate of 12/6 Per hundred Pounds of Tobacco by an immediate Payment, which he might easily make; the Principal Services he would have occasion for might be rated as soon as performed, and the incidental Charges arising on Court Proceedings would not be payable till done, and when done would be as easily rated as any other, and as easily in this Province, as in any Place where a Similar Rule obtains. Tho the Points between us at present do not defend on the Proposals made in the last, but on those made in this Session, and therefore it is not now very material to consider what would have been the Effects of the old Proposals, if adopted, since they have been superseded by new ones, yet the Attention due to your last Message would not allow us altogether to pass over without Notice the former Proceedings.