

Days before you, and requiring Alterations in principal Points, from which we were determined not to recede, we could not imagine, there was the least Probability of bringing about an Agreement at that Time, and therefore we declined protracting the Session by any Procedure from which we could expect nothing but a fruitless Expence. From like Motives we declined going into a Conference generally on the Bill now before you, in Consequence of your Message of the 8.<sup>th</sup> Instant by Daniel Dulany Esq; or to engage to confer on the Amendments you might propose, before we had them before us in one View; esteeming any Conference expedient in Proportion only to the probable Event. But having considered your last Message, which narrowed the Subject to the general Propositions contained therein, we agree that the Bill be expressed in other Terms, to give an Allowance of four per Cent. on the Payment of cropped Tobacco, if you still think any further Expressions necessary. That in Case of Payment in Money, the Clergy may receive on 32 instead of 30 per Poll, and that in Case it is not sufficiently certain, Lawyers fees be more fully expressed to be the same as in the last Inspection Act. Your other Propositions that tend to alter the Bill we do not agree to, and are of Opinion that an annual stated Income of £600 Sterling is too much for the Trouble and Risk in executing the Secretary's, Commissary's or Land Office, or in a comparative View with the private Estates within this Province, or the Numbers and general Circumstances of the Inhabitants: But even was the Sum proposed in our Opinion a fit Quantum, we should be utterly averse to fixing a Salary, and taking the fees to the Publick; not only because we should fear an entire new System might involve us in fresh Difficulties, but from an Apprehension, that any Officers who depend upon a known fixed Salary, without having an immediate Benefit from any particular Instances of their Duty, would not be so ready in undertaking, or diligent in executing them, as they would be, if they were to have a present Advantage from them. The immoderate Amount of the fees of Officers, as charged under the late Regulation, and the very many Abuses in those Charges which have fallen within our Observation, have determined us unanimously to reject that Regulation, which we never will again consent to. We have by the proposed Regulation in the Bill endeavoured to obviate the Pretences for what we esteem Abuses, making, in our Opinion, a very ample and generous Provision for Officers, and in the dependent Provisions taking that Care only which by Experience is found necessary against illegal and oppressive Charges; yet should you still think that the fees as regulated by the Bill are not sufficient, or that any other Parts of the Bill to which you have proposed Alterations need Amendments, we are willing to join with your Honours in a Conference thereon, and will appoint Conferees to meet such of your Honours as you may think proper to nominate for that Purpose.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 54  
Nov. 12

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Signed by Order Jn<sup>o</sup> Duckett Cl. Lo. Ho.