

L. H. J. charged; and observing that generally, where combined Interest and
 Liber No. 54 Ingenuity could invent a colourable Pretext, for a new Charge, it
 Nov. 17 had been adopted by ffellow Officers, we thought it highly necessary,
 in the now altered Circumstances of the Province, not only to recur
 to the Principle of 12/6 per Cent. on which the Inspection Law was
 first enacted in 1747, but also to make a clear and precise Table of
 ffees for Officers, that none might hope, from a Doubtfulness of
 Expression, to evade the plain Intention of the Law. The dependant
 Provisions we also amended by Additions to the Oath as well as
 Penalties against charging ffees not allowed, in some few of the very
 unreasonable Allowances we moderated the Quantum, and, for the
 Convenience of the Tobacco Makers, we extended the Time for
 closing the Inspection to the 20:th of August—On this Bill your
 Honours the last Session endorsed your Negative, which came to
 Us with your Message, proposing principally, “That the Duties
 and ffees of the Officers and Lawyers and the Dues of the Clergy,
 do stand as they were limited and regulated by the said Act, with this
 Difference, that all, who shall chuse to pay for Services immediately
 on Performance may be at Liberty to discharge the ffees in Money,
 after the same Rate that Persons who lodged Certificates under the
 said Act were admitted to discharge them.”

“That the ffarmers and others not making Tobacco, and who shall
 lodge Certificates, as directed by the said Act, be allowed to pay off
 the ffees of the Officers and Lawyers, and the Dues of the Clergy,
 in the Manner by the said Act provided. That Persons making
 Tobacco, be admitted to discharge the ffees of Officers and Lawyers,
 and Dues of the Clergy, after the Rate of twelve Shillings lawful
 Current Money of America for One hundred Pounds of Tobacco,
 so that such Payment in Money be made on or before the tenth
 Day of April Yearly”: By which your Honours were for departing
 from the Principle of the Regulation of 1747, in rejecting the
 Alternative to the People. The Officers would, in many Instances,
 have been Gainers from those who might have small Accounts to
 pay, and who would rather have paid at 12/. legal Money, than have
 been at the Trouble of going a considerable Distance to make Oath
 and obtain a Certificate of their not making Tobacco, to entitle them
 to pay at 12/6 Common Money; and the seeming Benefit to the
 Tobacco Maker, from an immediate Payment in Money, would have
 been no Advantage to him in common Occurrences, because in Court
 Proceedings generally he could not know what to tender, or the
 Officer what to receive, at the Time the Business was done; and it
 must seem probable to your Honours that as it would be incumbent
 on the Planter to tender enough, it would be the Officers Intention
 to receive enough. As this House did not conceive any of these
 Propositions were made merely to reflect merit on yourselves, in
 giving them up on a Conference, they were scarce sooner read than