

tiality; no Examination of your Conduct, however improper, in any other Jurisdiction; no new Tryal, Writ of Error, or Appeal; Your Determination, whether of Acquittal or Conviction, would be no Bar to a second Prosecution in a legal Judicatory; On these Grounds I was Advised, and pursued the Step, which, I am convinced, was constitutional, which the Occasion required, and which the general Security demanded, and am extremely sorry that it has proved to be so offensive to you. M.^r Steuart has already severely suffered, for any Irregularity he may have committed, by a rigorous, and ignominious Imprisonment; to inflict double Punishment for the [same] Delinquency, is not consistent with the equitable Spirit of our Constitution, tho' he may be liable to it—

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His Lordship's Authority has not yet interposed in any Regulation of the fees of Officers, nor have I any Reason to imagine that it will interpose in such a Manner as to justify a regular Opposition to it. So far as I may be concerned in any such Measure, I shall take good Care to act on mature Consideration; what I shall judge to be right and just, will be the only Dictate, by which I shall be determined. M.^r Calvert and M.^r Steuart have been made acquainted with your Complaint against them, and I send you their Answer by which you will observe that they did not intend referring to any Proclamation respecting their Dues, nor do I perceive any Irregularity in their Conduct as I am of Opinion they were not bound to do the Services without an immediate Payment of, or Security for, their fees; the Rate which had obtained under Act of Assembly for more than twenty three Years, and expired so lately as the 22:^d of October last, seem to be the most unexceptional they could follow. His Lordship has, I think, the clearest Right to dispose of his real Estate upon such Terms, as he may think proper; to direct the formal Observances in making Titles to his Grants; and to settle and regulate the Rewards his Officers in this Department, may demand and receive. Be assured, Gentlemen, that I shall, on every Occasion, pay a due Regard to your Rights; that I shall never countenance the illegal Exactions of any Officers, nor submit to any Usurpation, which may essentially endanger that constitutional Balance of counteracting Powers, so necessary to the Protection of the People, and the Preservation of the Public Peace.

Gentlemen,

This Answer to your Address you should have received before, had I not, from a tender Regard to the Welfare of the Province, chosen rather to suffer a temporary Imputation, than that your Attention should be directed from the very important Objects before you, of the depending Inspection Bill

Rob.^t Eden