

U. H. J.
Liber No. 36
Nov. 26

do adhere to the 14.th 15.th and 16.th propositions, we have no hopes of bringing about the Passage of a Bill, allowed on all Hands to be of great Importance to the Welfare and happiness of the People. Therefore upon your Honours declaring your fixed Resolution to adhere an End may be put to this Conference.

The Conferees Adjourn until to Morrow Morning 11 oClock

Thursday Morning 7.th of November 1771.

The Conferees met according to Adjournment

Present as Yesterday and M.^r Hammond of the Lower House

The Conferees of the Upper House deliver to those of the Lower House the following, together with the following Message from the Governor.

p. 577

What passed the last Session, not having been productive of any Regulation, cant we presume, be binding on both Houses at this Time, for if considered as mutually obligatory the Conference must inevitably prove fruitless. We were willing the last Session that the Alternative should be extended as well to the Clergy as the Officers and Lawyers and had the Bill then depending happily passed both Houses according to our Propositions, the Difficulty in respect of the Clergy wou'd probably not have happen'd. Our Measures must be adapted to our Circumstances, where we have no Power to Controul These. The Consent of the two Houses cant but be ineffectual when it meets with a Dissent from the other Branch of the Legislature. We have already in general informed you we had received an Assurance, that if the Alternative should be extended to the Clergy, the Bill will finally Miscarry, and now for your particular Information deliver to you a Copy of the Governors Message of the first Instant

p. 578

Unless this Difficulty can be Surmounted, a Consideration of other Points would be attended with an unprofitable Expense of Time. As you have Rejected Our first proposition, relative to the Clergy permit us to remark, that if you should not incline to extend to them all the Provisions of the late Act under which the Planter would be entitled to Pay thirty per poll in Tobacco, and the Farmers and others not making Tobacco, thirty Per poll in Money at the rate of twelve Shillings and six pence common Money per Hundred Weight, your adoption of the other Mode Viz.^t that of leaving the Clergy altogether out of the Bill, as far as the Planter may be concerned and including them as far as the farmer and others may be affected, will not alter the Condition the Planter would be in, should the Bill not pass and may secure the Farmers and others from the Oppression they may, in some Instances, suffer if left to make a Composition in Money.