

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

to add to that we have already offered on this Subject, that we are willing the Regulation of the late Inspection Law may be continued in respect of the Clergy, with a proviso that in all the Parishes on the Death, or Removal of the present Incumbents the Alternative shall take place. In the Course of a few Years what is designed will be accomplished.

If the Regulation be deferred the prospect of a general uniform Establishment will be more remote.

We are equally averse with you from allowing, that any Body of Men in the Community are above the Law; but all Bodies of Men every individual liable to be personally affected by a Bill, may we apprehend, whilst it is depending, Petition against its Passage without the imputation of Arrogance

p. 587 As you have assigned no Reason, neither does any occur to Us why the Officers Fees should be first considered. For above a Century Officers Fees had been rated, and the Subject therefore could not be new in the Year 1747, and there appears to Us no ground for supposing that the Legislature did not then well understand it, and the Existence of the Inspection Act for above Twenty Years under five continuing Acts especially as the Old Table has, as you observe been altered in some things seems to afford a strong proof, that the Opinion of the Legislature has long been, that the Old Table, as it stood when the Inspection Law fell was well adapted to the Purposes of it. What we meant by the Expressions it is our unalterable Resolution not to admit of any further Reduction than that very considerable one which must necessarily Result from the Election to be given to all Persons to pay in Money or Tobacco, and that so far we do and shall absolutely adhere to the Old Regulation was that we would not agree to any Reduction of Fees properly chargeable according to the Old Table, tho' willing that the improper Charges of Fees under the Old Table should be prevented in future by new Descriptions. In your enumeration of the Abuses committed by Officers the Charge of the Commissary General when the Services are performed by his Deputies, and they are paid is mentioned. By the Term *Abuse* we apprehend is meant the taking of Fees by the Commissary General not warranted by Law. The Question then will be, whether the double Charge as it is called was Supported by the late Inspection Act or not.

Deputies were introduced by the Act of 1715. They were instituted for the Ease and Convenience of the people, to give them an Option of doing their Business at Home or at Annapolis but with no apparent view of Diminishing the Fees of the Commissary General. After defining their duties the Act limits the pauper Estates to £10, directs that the Deputy shall take no more than 5.0.^{lbs} of Tobacco for Letters on such Estates, and provides that, in every such "Case" the Commissary General shall have no Fees, The