

U. H. J.
Liber No. 36
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By the Bill now under Consideration entitled “An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in His Majestys Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees”; a general Alternative is extended to all Persons, whether Makers of Tobacco or not; to pay for every Taxable, chargeable with the Clergy’s dues, 30.^{lbs} of Tobacco or four Shillings. You have already remarked that this Alternative was in a former Session agreed to by both Houses. We have informed you the Governor had declared in a Message, of which we delivered you an exact Copy that he would dissent to the aforesaid depending Bill, if the Alternative proposed by it; be extended “without Limitation” to the Clergy. We therefore proposed the Expedient, that, in all the Parishes on the Death or Removal of the present Incumbents, the Alternative should take place, and observed that in the Course of a few Years, the Design would be accomplished; but if the Regulation should be deferred the prospect of a general uniform Establishment would be more remote. The Alternative we meant, and thought we had most clearly explained is the aforesaid Alternative above mentioned, and contained in the Bill now depending, intituled “An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco for preventing Frauds in His Majestys Customs and for the Limitation of Officers Fees,” and as the Regulation was to be thus Established by the Bill when passed into a Law, we also could not but mean, that the Regulation should continue, as long as the Law establishing it should continue. In Regard to the Clergys dues, as you are not inclined to continue generally the Regulation of the late Inspection Act, The Matter stands thus under our several Propositions. They may be left out of the Bill entirely, or only as to the Planters, and be Subject to be discharged in Money after the rate of 3/9 each Taxable by the Farmers. If entirely left out of the Bill they will be payable as they now are, and the Condition of the Planters will not be altered. If Subject to be discharged in Money by the Farmers this Provision will very much secure them from the Oppression to which they may be exposed if left to make a Composition in Money for the 40 Per poll: for when Men are liable to be called upon for what they have not, they must be under great disadvantage in making a Contract to pay in what they have. Or lastly the present Clergy already Inducted may be paid according to the late Inspection Act and immediately on the Death or Removal of any of these Ministers, the people, as well Planters as others shall have it in their option to pay for each Taxable 30.^{lbs} of Tobacco per poll or four Shillings, which is the Alternative Proposed by the Bill. If this Provision be Established the Ministers now Inducted will have no reason to complain of Hardship, or Breach of Confidence, and their Successors will be fully apprized before their Induction what they are to depend upon

Experience has proved, that when the Settlement of Officers Fees