

To the freeholder then himselfe his wife Children & Fortune, &
 what they will needs submit themselves & all that is deare to
 them to be disposed of by the votes of the freemen that have
 nothing, & that can as easily carry themselves out of the reach of
 Lawes by themselves made, to the prejudice of the freeholder
 as change their stoules we doe promise to propound the
 case of the indigent freeman to his Lordship, & returne, &
 to offer him such reasons & motives as may incline him to
 permit the next Election to be made by the votes of all the
 freemen indifferently. this is all that lyes in our power to
 doe in this case, & this we doubt not but to obtaine from his
 Lordship, if the quiett demeanour of the freemen in this
 interim doe but concur with our Endeavours, to Oblige
 his Lordship to have a favourable regard of their Interests
 The last part which concerne the poore freemens paying
 equall Taxe with the rich, we must needs looke upon as a
 piece of Sophistry, imposed upon the credulous freemen by
 some malignant spirit, who says that he cannot as well
 spare the publike of the freemens Levy, as he hath
 bequilted the free man out of his Crop. what free man is it
 that ever paid for more then his own head? & what rich man
 is it that hath not paid for every servant & slave he hath? but
 put the case it be hard the poore freeman should pay as much
 for his head, as the rich man doth for his own head, why must
 my Lord or his Governour & Councell beare the blame of this -
 which my Lord himselfe cannot helpe without the consent of
 an Assembly? If the wisdom of future Assembly shall thinke
 fit to alter the way of paym^t of the Publike Taxes hitherto
 continued in this Province in Virginia & indeed in all the
 Governm^{ts} in the West Indies. we dare undertake for his
 Lordship that he shall consent to it. And it will be a thing
 extremely pleasing to him to finde that mans labour is not
 the sole Riches of his Province, & that our Riches from
 transitory are now become Real & permanent That this
 happy day may ever arrive hath bin the long & unwearied
 Endeavour of my Lords deceased Father And we dare boldly
 promise will be the constant Employ of my Lord that now is
 our helping hand shall never be wanting to procuring the
 peace & plenty of every individuall in the Province, which
 truly consist in the due preservation of his Lordships rights
 & the Protection of the People in their ^{just} liberties To both
 these as Judges we are indifferently sworn, & to each part
 of our duties we hold our selves equally Obliged And therefore
 we doe protest in the sight of God & men, as we are resolved
 not to see the least part of his Lordships right diminished
 without his Lordships consent, nor any of his Lawes slighted
 or