

411

the Upper House and the Journal of Accounts having also been refused by their Honours ever since the year 1764. unless this House would make an Allowance by a Tax on the People for an Annual Salary to the Clerk of his Lordships Council of State over and above his Allowance as Clerk of the Upper House and over and above his Fee settled by Law in the year 1747. as Clerk of the Council. contrary to their fixed and settled Opinion that the said Clerk his reasonable reward as well as every expence necessarily attending the Execution of the Powers of Government ought to be defrayed out of the Fines Forfeitures Amerciaments, 12. of Hogthead and other Monies received under Colour of Law to defray the Expences of Government by which means Public Credit having been greatly injured and in a manner annihilated and the Public Creditors so long kept out of their Just Claims as to be reduced to the greatest Distress and some of them to a State of Despair, altho' this Province now hath thirty Thousand round Capital Stock of the Bank of England a very Sufficient Fund to issue Bills of Credit on to pay those Claims and give a circulating medium to the Commerce languishing for want thereof; to remedy those Evils and promote as far as in them lies the Ease and Welfare of the Province this House having agreed to carry the said Dispute between the Lord Proprietary and the People before His Majesty in Council without any Public Money to pay an Agent whether his Lordship should pay the Clerk of the Council his Claim and other necessary expences of Government out of those Public Revenues or whether the People should be taxed for them and his Lordship keep all those Public Monies without Account to his Private use. firmly relying on the Public Virtue and Spirit of their Constituents that each and every one will contribute some part of his Private Property for employing an Agent in London to conduct the settling and determining a Matter in which the Country in general is so much interested more especially when at the same time and for nearly the same expence they may likewise procure Relief from other Aggrievances this Province labours under and particularly the want of a standing Agent at the Court of Great Britain to be maintained at the Public Charge.

Resolved therefore that this House do appoint Charles Garth Esq. lately Special Agent for this Province their Agent for conducting and managing the Business aforesaid. Resolved that the honourable Speaker, M. Murdock, Col. Tilghman, M. Ringgold, M. Johnson and M. John Hall of Annapolis or any three of them be a Committee in the Name of Assembly to correspond with the said Charles Garth Esq. and that the said Committee do prepare with all possible Dispatch, and transmit to the said Agent a full State of the Dispute aforesaid as well as of our other Aggrievances more especially in relation to the 12. of Hogthead and the want of a Public Support for an Agent and also authenticated Copies of Records and all other Papers and matters necessary for carrying on the said Disputes. And that the said Committee of Correspondence lay Copies of their Letters to the said Agent together with any Letters they may receive from him before the next Assembly of the Delegates of this Province.

And whereas for the supplying such materials as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid it may be deemed requisite by the said Committee that a thorough Examination and Inspection be made into all the Acts that have been passed relative to the Revenue and every Branch thereof and raising and levying Money upon the People in any manner whatever towards supporting the Executive Powers of Government together with the contemporary Journals and Proceedings not only of this House but also of the Upper House Governor and Council and Governor and Privy Council. Resolved also that the said Committee have free Access to all Papers Books and Records in any of the Public Offices to search and examine the same and demand and take Copies of any part thereof they may think proper. And also that the said Committee have Power to employ a Clerk who shall have the same Daily Allowance under them as Clerks in Session time have and that this House will take care that the said Committee be indemnified in prosecuting said Inquiry.