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fair before the Lower House the more seditious & malevolent would be  
silenced, & ashamed to open their Mouths again on that Subject, for if the  
Quotations are fair & exact the Reasoning I think must be conclusive &  
should they deny or question the Truth of the Quotation to which has  
been taken Minutes & References so that the Original Books & Pages can be  
easily secured to - however as I think it would be best to confute every Antagonist  
not so Adversary as effectually as possible & show them that all their Arguments  
have been also duly considered & regarded, I could wish that the Lords would  
permit you to submit the whole Book herewith sent (containing a true  
State of the Revenue Taxes &c from the first Settlement of the Province  
to the present time, some Addresses from the Lower House, & Report of their  
Committee concerning them, & the late Governours Answers) to some Lawyer for  
his Opinion which if returned me before the Assembly meet again might if  
then thought necessary be laid before them to be entered at large in the Journal  
of their Proceedings & recorded for the Satisfaction & Conviction of them & Posterity  
but this matter I humbly submit to His Lordship & Yourself that such  
Steps may be taken therein as to you shall seem proper. I am sorry to find  
that Mr Stewart still persists in his Calamours against the Act made in July  
1754 that imposes a Duty on Servants, I have writ to the Naval Officers &  
cautioned them against collecting or receiving any Duties that are not imposed  
by Acts of Parliament or Assembly, but I doubt they will scarcely decline  
collecting the Duty of 20/ the Poll on every Convict imported that shall be  
sold for Seven Years as they seem to think themselves obliged by their Oath  
to collect such Duty. Had I forbid them in positive Terms to forbear Collecting  
it, I could have shown that I knew they had already done so & I could not  
have recommended it to the Assembly to repeal that Part of the Act without  
discovering a consciousness of the Duty being imposed, contrary to an Act of  
Parliament, besides I am thoroughly convinced that if I had desired it or  
seemed vastly anxious to have the Clause repealed, I would have given the  
Lower House some Degree of Satisfaction, as they would have concluded that  
the Govern<sup>t</sup> was distressed about it. however I have taken care to have  
it