

The Subject Matter of the *Act for Limitation of Officers Fees*, has, with various Opinions, taken up much Time and Consideration, and lest some might think me partial to my self, because the naming the Persons employ'd in the several Offices of Government, is in me, I have been sensibly touch'd about it, and the more so, since the late Reasons offered to induce me not to dissent thereto, unhappily differ so widely from my own.

I think the continual Affluence of People will multiply Business, Care and Hands, as well as enumerate Officers Fees, and by your Way of Reasoning, *Gentlemen of the Lower House*, you may as well, from Time to Time, lessen what they now Enjoy, as you have what they formerly did. Nor am I fully convinc'd, should the fluctuating Condition of our Staple, so improve, (which God grant it may) as to double their Profits, to what the low State of it has now rendered them, they would have more than an ample Compensation for their Labours, altho' constantly residing among you. But as it is, and as I conceive, very justly thought necessary, that some certain Officers of the State, should be supported about the Person of your Proprietary in *Great Britain*, in such manner, as to be able plentifully, out of the Profits of their Office, to gratify such Deputy or Deputies, as the Business necessary to be transacted in the Province requires, so I cannot believe, the Limitation of them, from what they have been, will prove in the end any great Advantage to the Publick.

Possibly the Fees allowed in *Virginia* may not be so much in Tobacco, as those allowed by us, yet if I am not mis-informed, the different Value of their Tobacco from ours, makes an ample Amends; however, since you, *Gen'lemen*, the Delegates of the People, so earnestly desire I would not dissent to the said Act, I have not, trusting that you your selves will one day see cause to Revive and alter it.

Gentlemen of the Lower House;

I cannot omit Thanking you, in particular, for your most obliging Letter, under the Hand of *Robert Ungle Esq;* your very worthy Speaker, and am pleased with the Occasion you thereby give me, in this publick Manner, of declaring how acceptable any thing is to me, which you apprehend may prove Advantageous to the Staple of our Country.

The great Quantity of bad Tobacco lately given up to be burnt, whereby His Majesty has been so considerable a Loser in his Customs, caus'd much Inquiry and Speculation, until the sight of your late Act for preventing the making trashy Tobacco, and for the bettering the Staple of this Province, gave hopes that the like would not happen for the Future, which has convinc'd me, how much it is for your Advantage that I should be assisted with Men of Knowledge and Interest in your Affairs, in order either to preserve those Priviledges you now enjoy, or in obtaining others, as occasion may offer.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly;

It is with great Satisfaction, I observe from your Journals, that the Condition of the Militia has employ'd your Thoughts, and I am in hopes the next Sessions will produce such a Regulation therein, that (together with the Charge you are constantly at for Arms and Ammunition) you may not appear negligent, whilst your Neighbours are taking so much care of their Preservation. And I am confident, you will find my Lieutenant as expert informing
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