

Plantations, in a particular Case of *Jamaica*, where an Act was lately made, intituled, *An Act for making His Majesty's Revenue perpetual, and augmenting the same, and continuing and declaring what Laws are in Force in this Island.*

This Act, His Majesty, with the Advice of His Council, has been pleas'd to disallow, after due Deliberation, and References had, and Reports made thereon by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, by the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, and by His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, recommending the said Act, tho' in many Parts of it highly necessary, as not proper to be allowed of; for that (among many other Reasons set forth in the said Reports) the said Act might possibly introduce the whole Body of the *English* Laws to become Laws of *Jamaica*, in Cases not particularly provided for by Laws of their own, which in many Cases were by no Means Competent, but might do great Mischief, and be attended with many Inconveniencies; both to His Majesty's Government in that Island, and to the Estates and Commerce of His Majesty's Subjects there.

Here, Gentlemen, You may perceive a Law, after mature Consideration, (many Parts of it agreed to be highly necessary and convenient) disallow'd of, because in one Part the *English* Statutes are made to operate in that Part of His Majesty's Plantations called *Jamaica*, which Proceeding does not at all seem to support some late Resolutions address'd to me, setting forth, among other Things, That such general Statutes of *England*, as are not restrained by Words of Local Limitation, are in Force in *Maryland*, another Part of His Plantations. Were they in Force, What Need to make Laws to establish them, as in the Case before you of *Jamaica*; the Disallowance of which Act, with the Reasons given for it, shews plainly, that it is not thought proper to suffer them to be introduced as not Competent, but Mischievous, in many Cases; and the attempting to make the Act, shews as plainly that they are not looked on as Laws of that Country, without a Law of their own to enforce them.

I must take Notice, indeed, at the same Time that this Act was represented to His Majesty as not proper for His Allowance, it was recommended to Him, That if any of the particular Statutes of *England*, should be look'd on as Necessary and Convenient for them, and His Majesty should think them reasonable, that he would be pleas'd to allow them to be introduced by a Law of their own making: And in this Particular, I esteem my self very fortunate, it being so agreeable to that Part of my Instruction set forth in your Address, (Gentlemen of the Lower House,) where I recommend, That when any of the *English* Statute Laws are found convenient and well adapted to your Circumstances, you ought especially to Enact them, *de novo*, or such Part of them as you think proper for you; and Happy would it be for you all, to conduct your selves accordingly.

What Laws, Rules, Customs and Usages, are undoubted, certain, constantly adhered to, and known among you, far be it from me to attempt to alter, but for the Common Good at your own Request in General Assembly legally convened; any more than I will submit any Alterations to be made by the Opinions or Resolutions of others.

In all your Debates, let me recommend to you, Gentlemen of both Houses, Temper, Moderation and Good-will towards one another; of which, I perceive from your late Journals something was wanting, in the Dispute relating to the Allowances due to the Council of State; a Body of Men chose out of the ablest and worthiest among you, to serve the Publick: And as such have found their Reward from their Country, long before, and since