

Hundred ; on a Supposition that the Quantity of Tobacco would be very much decreased. Whereas, by a natural Intendment of the Votes of your House, it appears that such, or even any Decrease of Tobacco, in Quantity, is not now presumed to be a likely Effect of that Law, since you think not his Lordship our Lord Proprietary, any ways entitled to an Equivalent, which in Honour, Justice and Gratitude, could not otherwise have been denied. This induces us to think it highly unreasonable, that particular Persons should previously be subjected to a Defalcation of one Fourth in their Dues, or ty'd down to Ten Shillings per Hundred for the Whole, since the Effects of a Tobacco-Law, are manifestly uncertain, whereby this Case might be rendered very unequal to the rest of the Inhabitants of the Province.

The new Tobacco-Bill, proposed for our Concurrence, we have thought our selves obliged to reject for the before-mentioned Considerations, and more particularly for the following Reason: It is a Bill of the same Nature (some few Circumstances excepted) with the former; against the Sanction to which in *Great-Britain*, publick Oppositions (it is well known) are made. And, as the Fate of the said Law is at present doubtful to us, the Attempt of making a new Law of the like Nature, may be thought a presumptuous Anticipation of the Right of his Majesty, and the Lord Proprietary, to assent or dissent to Laws passed here, and an evasive Infringment of the Prerogative; and would, in effect, preclude the Province the Benefit of a dernier Resort in *Great-Britain*.

As we are satisfied your House acted with no such Views, so indecent towards the Royal or Proprietary Prerogative, as the before-mentioned Constructions might suppose; but that the present Calamity of the Country induced you thereto. we recommend (to avoid any Causes of such Imputation) a Supplementary Bill to the said Law, proposing such Amendments as may be thought necessary and convenient.

Sign'd per Order, *John Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.*

The House adjourns 'till To-Morrow Morning at Eight of the Clock.

*BY Order of the Lower House of Assembly, I do authorize and appoint William Parks to print the Votes and Proceedings of the said House,*

*JOHN MACKALL, Speaker.*

