

Monday Morning, May 9, 1737.

THE House met according to Adjournment.

Mr. *Speaker* communicated to the House the following Letter.

Sir,

I would have sent you the inclos'd sooner, but that I am very sure I have one other Instruction relating to cut Gold, which reduces it to Three Pounds *Sterling* the Ounce; as soon as I can possibly find it, I will send it you. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

*Benjamin Tasker.*

And the following Instruction.

My Quit-Rents and Alienation Fines being payable in Money *Sterling*, and almost all the Specie in the Province being Foreign Gold, (great Part of which is cut into small Pieces, for the Conveniency of Change,) and reckon'd, according to the common Computation, not warranted by any Law, the Ounce at Four Pounds Two Shillings and Six Pence; whereas Gold is worth intrinsically, no more than Three Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Four Pence: So that my Loss, at this Rate, would be in every Ounce of Gold, Four Shillings and Two Pence. This would not be all, for the Paper Currency has already (tho' not in Circulation) raised the Value of Bills of Exchange, which is not doubted will reach to 40 *per Cent.* or more; so that I must either have the Money remitted in Specie, with the Loss above-mentioned, and pay Freight and Assurance, or lose by converting this Money in the Country, into Bills of Exchange, at Six Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence *per Cent.* at least.

To avoid these Disadvantages, my Agent must give positive Orders to the Receivers of every Branch of my Revenue payable in *Sterling* Money, that when they receive Foreign Gold, no more be allowed for it than the intrinsick Value, which is *per Ounce*, of such as is cut into small Bits, Three Pounds Ten Shillings; because great Frauds have been discovered, by passing Bits of Brass, &c. for Gold, whereby very cautious People have been much imposed on.

Copy.

*Benjamin Tasker.*

The Question was put, Whether Leave be given to bring in a Bill, to repeal the Act for Limitation of shipping Tobacco, or not? Resolved in the Affirmative.

The Committee of Laws ordered to prepare a Bill accordingly.

A Bill, intituled, *An Act for aiding some Defects and Imperfections in the Probat of Last Wills and Testaments*, was brought in. Read the first Time, and committed for Amendment.

*Benjamin Tasker*, from the Upper House, delivers Mr. *Speaker*, a Bill, intituled, *A Supplementary Act to the Act, intituled, An Act for the explaining and carrying into Execution, an Act, intituled, An Act for laying out and applying 3500 Pounds Current Money of Maryland, to the Uses therein mentioned.* Indors'd:

*By the Upper House of Assembly, 9 May, 1737.*

Read the second Time, and will pass.

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

Which Bill was here read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The House adjourns until Two of the Clock in the Afternoon.

*Post*