

the Report point out to me such a one; on the contrary, I find, that in an Act passed in the Year 1699 for Repealing several Laws then in Force, the Law of 1692 for the Support of Government, is expressly excepted out of the said Repealing Act, and is again excepted out of a Repealing Act passed in the Year 1700, entituled, *An Act for Repealing certain Laws in this Province, and Confirming others*, which makes it manifest beyond Contradiction, that it was looked upon as a perpetual Law, and accordingly it continued, without any new Force being added to it by any Act passed in 1699, 'till the repealing Act in 1704 as above-mentioned.

It would be too tedious to enter into a detail of all your other Arguments, which, I flatter myself, You yourselves will see the Insufficiency of upon a more attentive and deliberate Consideration of them; but I can very truly say, that however fallacious they may appear to me, and however well satisfied I may be of the Validity of the Law, by which the Government is at present Supported, I shall always be very willing to do any thing in my Power, to put a final End to all Disputes of this nature, consistent with my Duty to his Majesty, and the Lord Proprietary, which obliges me not to weaken in any Manner that Support which the Government is at present by Law entitled to.

And I would willingly persuade myself that there is no Difference of Opinion amongst us upon this Head, but what may be easily reconciled by a little cool and impartial Deliberation.

You very justly express your Sense, “ that a People living under a Government ought to be at the Charge of Supporting it, and that you have not any other Intention, than to give his Lordship such an honourable One, as shall be adequate to the Ability of those you represent.”

And in the Bill sent up to the Upper House, you propose *Twelve Pence Sterling per Hog-head*, the same that the Government now collects by the present Law, what then can remain to quiet the Minds of the most uneasy, but to confirm the said Law, if you think such a Confirmation in any manner necessary, and I believe I may leave it to yourselves, whether this will not more plainly manifest “ the desire your House has of cultivating a good Understanding betwixt the Government and People,” than proposing a Bill with a Preamble, setting forth, “ That it does not appear to this present General Assembly, that there is any Law now in Force to raise a sufficient Support for the Government, but that from the 29th Day of *September*, in the Year of our Lord 1732, down to this Time, the Sum of *Twelve Pence* for every Hog-head of Tobacco exported out of this Province, hath been collected without any Law for so doing, &c. ”

It would be easy to change this Preamble, and Substitute another in it's Place, as much reflecting upon the Lower House of Assembly, as this is upon the Government, but how much such Proceedings can tend