

the same, without such Conditions as would in our Apprehension prove destructive to the People, for Reasons your Excellency cannot be a Stranger to, *viz.* that of making it a perpetual Law; and how reasonable it is that the Gentlemen of that Board, who without any Warrant from the Royal Charter, assume a Negative on the Proceedings of the Delegates of this Province, and whose Seats at that Board, are only at the Will of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, and who (with a single Exception only) are composed of such as hold the chief Offices and Posts of Profit in the Government during Pleasure, the exorbitancy of whose Fees illegally charged, and the oppressive manner of Extorting them from the People, was what was endeavoured by that Bill to be Remedied; how far we say, they ought to be Judges and have a Negative in an Affair wherein they are so deeply interested, we leave to our Superiors and the World to judge; whilst we are upon this Article of Fees, we cannot omit mentioning to your Excellency another Practice lately crept in amongst us, That of Buying and Selling the Offices of the County Clerks; and the very Persons, who receive the Profits of the Offices of Clerks and Registers, practising as Attorneys in the Courts to which these Offices belong: That such Sales are unlawful is too obvious to be denied, and whether the same Person, acting in the different Capacities of Clerk and Attorney, having the Custody of the Papers and Evidences of the Person against whom he is concerned, and the entring up of the Judgment in the Cause, may not be introductive of Corruption, Injustice and Oppression, we submit to your Excellency, or any other unprejudiced Person.

The exacting Alienation Fines on Devises, is, we conceive, a Thing contrary to the Tenor and Conditions of our Grants, a Project introduced to drain Money from the People within these three or four Years last past, from a forced Construction of the Words of our Patents.

We are far from desiring to Wrong his Lordship of what properly belongs to him, but cannot help Complaining of that Prerogative and Authority he has lately taken upon himself, to Vacate his own Grants of Land to the People of this Province, on account of Surplus or any other Matter, as invasive of our Properties, and a Thing not to be done by any Subject.

The Naval Officers of this Province, we think are, or ought to be Subject to the Laws of it; yet notwithstanding the express Clause in the Paper Currency Act, that all Contracts to be made from and after the Publication of that Act, should be paid and satisfied in Bills of Credit, they, to this time, have obliged Masters of all Vessels Entring or Clearing with them, to pay their Fees in Gold or Silver; Strange! that the holding an Office (the Fees and Perquisites whereof, arise from the Labour and Industry of a People) should set Persons above the Law, and invest them with a Power to oppress that People!