

must allow when you consider, that at this present Time, we pay a Duty of *One Penny* per Pound upon all Tobacco exported out of this Province to any of his Majesty's Plantations in *America*, towards the maintenance of the College of *Virginia*; a Duty upon Foreign Rum, Sugar and Molasses imported into this Province; *Six Pence* per Month out of Sailors Wages for *Greenwich* Hospital; and Postage for Letters carried by the public Post; all which Duties and Imposts are laid on by the Parliament of *Great Britain*, without having or requiring the Assent of the People of this Province to the same, besides the many Fees levied and paid in the several Colonies of *America* and the *West Indies*, by the sole Prerogative of the Crown and Authority derived from thence, without Acts of Assembly Passed for that Purpose.

The next Thing you mention, is the Method made use of by some Officers to get in their Fees; whatever is done illegally in this Respect, is certainly a real Grievance which ought to be redressed, and I am sure I shall never interpose in such a Case, but leave such Officers to the Law, which I hope is sufficient to punish them when they transgress it.

I shall always be ready to give my Assistance to settle the Fees upon such a Foundation as may put a final end to all Disputes upon this Head, but how this can be done by a temporary Law of three Years, I must confess I cannot conceive, nor how a perpetual Law to this Purpose could prove destructive to the People, which on the contrary seems to be a very desirable Thing for their Quiet and Happiness, as it would put a final end to all sorts of Oppression and Extortion, which they now so much complain of, and which may in a great measure be occasioned by proper Penalties not being laid upon Officers for Offending in this Respect.

As to what you mention of the Upper House having a Negative on all Bills that are to Pass into Laws, I hope this is not one of the Grievances that you desire my Assistance to remove, which I must freely own I cannot promise you, nor do I believe you will have the Assistance of any succeeding Governor, to alter in so great a degree the whole Frame of our Constitution.

As to Buying and Selling the Offices of the County Clerks, and the very Persons who receive the Profits of the Offices aforesaid practising as Attorneys in the Courts to which these Offices belong, these are Points of Law, which must be left to the decision of Courts of Justice, and which the Governor has no Power to determine by his own Authority.

The Proprietor's Agent requiring Alienation Fines on Devises, is a Point of private Property, upon which nothing has as yet come before me; if it should, as Chancellor, I shall endeavour in this as in all other Cases, to give a Decree according to Justice and Equity, to the best of my Judgment and Understanding; from the Court of Chancery there is an Appeal to the Court of Appeals, and from thence to his Majesty in Council, which