

of such Things as may come before us, the wisest Assemblies being liable to be Misled by the too great Warmth even of honest and well-meaning Men, as well as by the artful Practices of such as know how to cover their own private and self-interested Views with the specious appearance of Zeal for the publick Good.

It is well known what Pains I took some time ago to continue the Law for the Payment of his Lordship's Rents and Alienation Fines by Tobacco, as likewise to make our Paper Money Pass in Payment of 40 per Poll, and Officers Fees, at the rate of Ten Shillings per Pound, and with what Warmth and Zeal these Points were opposed by many Gentlemen, who then thought they were doing their Country great Service.

At present I believe few are so partial as not to acknowledge that the Government was then acting for the general Benefit and Advantage of the People, whose Interest was greatly mistaken by their own Representatives, which I am perswaded could not have happened, had that serious and impartial Deliberation been made use of, which I am now recommending.

How inclinable the Clergy may be to come into a new Agreement I cannot take upon me to say, but the publick Good will no doubt be a very strong Motive with them, as I am confident it will always be with the Officers to join with them whenever an Occasion offers. The many Advantages that would accrue to the Country by so great an Addition to the uses of our Paper Money, seem to me so very evident, that I cannot help recommending to you to take this Affair once more into Consideration, and to try if such a reasonable Medium may not be agreed on as shall be to the Satisfaction of all Parties, which I hope will not prove so difficult a Matter as it may at first sight appear to be, if we set about it with that Attention and Candour, which an Affair of so much Importance to the Country requires.

If after all our Endeavours a general Law should be found at present impracticable, the particular Circumstances of our Back Inhabitants will naturally offer themselves to your Consideration; the permitting them to pay their Dues in Paper Money will not only free them from the necessity they now lie under of making Tobacco, and leave them at Liberty to go upon other Commodities more useful to the Country as well as themselves, but be a step towards a general Law, which may possibly be brought about by Degrees, as People perceive the Value and Usefulness of our Money increase, with the enlargement of it's Currency.

Gentlemen,

You are all too well acquainted with the Temporary Laws that are to expire with this Session of Assembly, to make it necessary for me to mention