

general Charges of Oppressions and Grievances so often mentioned this Assembly; and as to particular Ones, I make no doubt of giving satisfactory Answers to them, whenever you shall please to lay them before me.

The present subject of your Address is, the *Twelve Pence* per Hoghead raised for the Support of Government, which you say "You are sensibly concerned to find has been since the 29th of *September* 1733, collected and levied from the People of this Province, without any Law, that you know of, to warrant the same."

"That you have been indeed informed by the several Naval Officers, that they levy that Money by virtue of an Act of Assembly made in the Year 1704, entituled, *An Act for Settlement of an Annual Revenue upon her Majesty's Governor within this Province for the Time being.*"

This Manner of expressing yourselves, would really have inclined me to believe, that you had not before known by what Law the said *Twelve Pence* per Hoghead had been collected, 'till the Information abovementioned from the said Naval Officers, was it not so notoriously known, that the said Law of 1704 was not only under the Consideration of the Lower House of Assembly in the Year 1733, but has been greatly canvassed in Conversation by the Members of every Assembly that has met since that Time, and that it has been universally looked upon by every part of the Legislature since that Time as a Law in Force and Being, 'till some Gentlemen of new Light (for I find we have new Light in Politicks as well as in Religion) lately undertook to undeceive us in this particular.

If the said Law should be found not to be in Force, I must own I should be greatly surprized, as I believe many others would be of far greater Knowledge and Experience than myself, but shall with all Duty and Submission be at all Times ready to submit myself to the Judgment of my Superiors at Home, where neither the artful Practices of arbitrary and corrupt Governors, nor the causeless Clamours of self-interested and ill-designing Men, can cover themselves with those Disguises which are but too often put on before less penetrating Judges, but every Thing must appear in it's true and proper Light, and be judged of accordingly.

I must confess indeed that the Opinion of the Lower House of Assembly, for which I must at all Times have the greatest Regard, would have had more Weight with me upon this Occasion, had you not laid before me the Grounds and Reasons of it, set forth at large in the Report annexed to your Address, in which, without taking upon me to determine what must be left to the Judgment of our Superiors, as I mentioned before, I hope I shall be able to point out a few Mistakes and Misapprehen-