

We should not be less pleased to be convinced, than to convince, and we are assured you would not have been at a loss to shew the same Terms of Appropriation and Uses in other Laws, as were inserted in the Bill for raising an Annual Revenue, &c. if there had been any such.

We must acknowledge ourselves greatly mistaken in what concerns his Majesty's other Plantations, if the Doctrine of raising Money by perpetual Laws is so harsh, as you are pleased to represent it; but the perpetual Law among our Neighbours in the Colony of Virginia for the Support of that Government, the late perpetual Law of 1692, and the present of 1704 in this Province for the same purpose, as also the frequent Royal Instructions requiring the same in other Plantations, satisfy us, that the Mention of such Laws is not only usual to English Ears, but agreeable to his Majesty's Pleasure.

The Bill, entituled, An Act to raise a Fund to be applied for the Payment of an Agent and other necessary uses of this Province, which you were pleased to send to us, we now return with our Negative to it: For however necessary and convenient it may be, that there should be an Agent at the Imperial Seat, or (if we may be permitted to say) at the Court of Great Britain, yet we cannot but think it reasonable and decent, that the Concurrence of the Governor and Upper House, should be made necessary in the Nomination and Appointment of the Person designed for that Employment: The Agents on behalf of other Plantations are generally Nominated by the Legislature or Government; but this Bill strikes out of the common Road, and by an unaccountable peice of Policy, not only places the Power of such Nomination in certain Persons to be appointed by the House of Delegates, and to be called Trustees, but also gives to such Trustees the sole Authority of paying such Agent; so that if this Bill should be Passed into a Law, such an Agent could not be so properly stiled the Agent of the Province, as the Minister of the Trustees, for he must depend on their sole Will and Pleasure for his Being and Continuance in the Agency, and on their Generosity for his Pay.

As to the Trustees, the very nature of their Power would change their Name or Title of Trustees into that of Guardians, and what relative Term would best suit not only the Legislative Power, but the whole Province, to answer that of Guardian, we shall not presume to mention; But there might be reason to wish (if such a Bill should ever be a Law) that the Conduct of such Trustees, represented by their Minister at the Court of Great Britain, and not unarmed (as you are pleased to express yourselves in your Message) with that Fund, might not deserve a worse Character, and more to the Reproach of their Constituents, and Danger of the whole Province, than that of Guardianship.

Although