

Zeal for the Publick Good according to the Duty of our Station, have maturely considered the several Particulars hereafter mentioned, concerning which we have received the loud Complaints of those we Represent, and encouraged by your Excellency's kind Declaration at the opening of this Session, "That no Man is come to this Assembly more sincerely desirous of the Welfare of the Province than yourself, or more willing to give a helping Hand to the removal of every Obstacle to it's Happiness and Prosperity," beg leave to lay them before you as Grievances under which we and our Constituents labour, and whereof the evil Consequences daily grow upon us; not doubting that when they are set in their proper Light, we shall have your Excellency's helping Hand to the removal of them as real Obstacles to our Happiness and Prosperity.

That the People of this Province are Subjects of *Great Britain*, and entitled to all the Rights, Privileges and Liberties of that their Mother Country, is a Truth we hope none will attempt to deny; and that the Basis on which those Privileges are principally Founded, is the Right they have of not being subject to any Payments, whether they be Taxes, Duties, Imposts, Fees, or under any other Denomination whatsoever, but what shall be raised, settled and appointed by Laws, to which by themselves or their Substitutes they give their Assent, is a Matter we conceive can admit of no contradiction.

We therefore acknowledge ourselves at a Loss to know, by what Right or Law *Fourteen Pence* Sterling, for every Tun of Burthen, has for a considerable Time past been levied on Vessels Trading here and not properly belonging to this Province; we very well know that an Act was made in 1661 for raising half a Pound of Powder and three Pounds of Shot by the Tun on such Vessels, and we as well know that by that Law, the same was not appropriated to the Proprietaries for their own Use, although they have ever since exacted the *Fourteen Pence* in lieu thereof, and applied the same to their private Benefit: We are not insensible of the King's Order in Council concerning that Money in 1692, but beg leave nevertheless to say, that whatever Obedience was paid to that Royal Order (which only did or indeed could regard the Application,) yet the Act whereby it was pretended to be taken being Repealed by another made in 1704, that Order must necessarily cease; and altho' we do not immediately pay that Money, yet as Merchants generally reckon Port and other Duties as part of the Cost of what they Sell or Transact, and account it as part of the Price of what they Purchase, we cannot but think it becomes a Charge on the Province at last.

We are sorry to find the Avenues to Justice in a great measure shut up