

either Mercy or Lenity without being paid for it? It is so far from it, that we are satisfied, none but yourselves will ever construe those Words in the sense you do; because the plain and natural Meaning is, that Mercy and Forgiveness ought to be considered by every Person with Thankfulness, rather than with grudging any Expence the exercise of those amiable Qualities may be necessarily attended with: But the Governor's known Readiness to shew Compassion and Favour towards every proper Object, as much takes from us the necessity of convincing the World of it's Truth, as it puts it out of your Power to misguide any Person by Insinuations into the Disbelief of it; nor is it the value of 120 *lb.* Tobacco which obliges us to persevere in the Claim, but the Precedent you endeavor to establish by the Disallowance, and which we repeat to be against all former Precedents of that kind, and which you do not deny; nor do you point out what Law is against the Allowance, tho' we know of none, and you have roundly affirmed there is One.

We shall not consent to refer the decision of the Lawfulness of the Charge of 54898 $\frac{1}{2}$ to any other Time; since you have neither shewed us any Law against that Allowance, or offered any thing, but your own Affirmation, that our Reasoning on those Fees in our last Message of the 28th Instant is wrong; nor can we apprehend how his Majesty's Order to Discharge the Prisoners 'till a further Time prove that he disapproved of the Prosecutions that had been before carried on, although he might not think fit to have them determined as yet; And we should be obliged if you will explain to us, how the Recognizances taken from those Prisoners are liable for the Fees now contended for: We conceive when the Secretary and Attorney General act on Behalf of the Lord Proprietary in matters relating to the Liberty of the Inhabitants or their Possessions, they act (as they did in the Instance of those Fees) for the Publick.

We never before heard that the Clerk of the Council was Clerk to the Committee of Aggrievances, and it is as extraordinary to have it surmised, that the Council Books ought to be laid before such a Committee, which we are assured never entered into any other Imaginations than your own.

We are really so unhappy as not to understand what you mean further relating to Mr. *Ross*, only that what was thought reasonable to be allowed to Mr. *Denton*, one of your own Members, for Copying, is too much for the Copies made by the Clerk of the Council, from whence it is easily concluded, that your Objection is not so much to the Services as to the Persons.

We shall not give you or ourselves further Trouble about the Journal, but only tell you that as the Fees now claimed are as just Debts on the
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