

The Naval Officers have already informed the late Lower Houses of Assembly, that they have received ever since the Year 1733, and still continue to receive the 12 *d.* per Hoghead, by Virtue of the Act 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*: And if they have any particular Instructions besides that Act, to authorize that receipt, I shall order Copies of them to be authenticated, and delivered to the Gentlemen mentioned in your Address.

You are sensible the Naval Officers constantly lay before the Lower House their annual Accounts, upon Oath, by which the Number of Hogheads exported appear, and consequently how many Shillings are received every Year by Virtue of that Act; so that the Quantum for the whole, or any Number of Years, since 1733, is very readily seen and known, from those Accounts examined by and lodged with your House: And if you desire those Accounts delivered from time to time to the Lower House, or Copies of them, to be authenticated under the Great Seal, I will give Directions accordingly.

As to the 14 *d.* per Ton, whatever Dispute you may now think fit to make on that Head, yet you cannot be unapprized that his Lordship and his Ancestors have received this Payment by Virtue of their Proprietaryship, distinct from the Government, even when the Administration was not in their Hands; and that this Right has been solemnly determined by his late Majesty King *William*, in Council, to be due to the Proprietary, without any Reference to the Government: This Duty therefore must be considered as his Lordship's private Property, and I really do not think myself at Liberty to make any Person acquainted with this or any other Branch of his Lordship's private Estate, especially when the Information is insisted upon, as this is, to be due in point of Right.

As I have endeavoured to give you all the Satisfaction in my Power on these Points, there can be no Question, but you will be enabled hereby to furnish your Council with what is really necessary, and more especially since it is the Right of receiving, and not the Sum received, that gives Occasion for this unhappy Difference; and indeed this last Reasoning appears so conclusive to me (and I dare say will to every unprejudiced Person), that it is hardly possible but that all your Constituents must see and confess the Force of it.

T. BLADEN.

Which was read, and ordered to lie for further Consideration.

*Richard Lee*, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers Mr. Speaker the Bill entituled, *An Act for the easier and better securing the Estates of Debtors absconding, and of Persons Bankrupt, for the Use of their Creditors, and equal Distribution of the same*; Indorsed, "By the Upper House of Assembly July 1. 1746. Read the second Time, and will not pass.

"Signed per Order, *J. Ross*, Cl. Up. Ho."

With the following Message; *viz.*

By the Upper House of Assembly July 1, 1746.

Gentlemen.

WE herewith return you the Bill entituled, *An Act for the easier and better securing the Estates of Debtors absconding, and of Persons Bankrupt, for the Use of their Creditors, and equal Distribution of the same*, with a Negative; not only because it contains several Inconsistencies and Contradictions, but also that it is contrary to the Condition upon which the Crown has granted a Power of Legislation, by the Charter, to the Legislature of this Province.

Signed per Order, *J. Ross*, Cl. Up. Ho.

Which being read, *Resolved*, That the said Bill tends greatly to the Ease and Benefit of the People of *Maryland*; and that altho' there should have appeared to the Upper House some Inconsistencies and Contradictions therein, upon it's now being first formed, the same might have been by them, with little Trouble, pointed out, and the Bill regulated, by their proposing proper Amendments; which, by it's being returned with a general Negative, is now prevented. *Ordered*, therefore, that the said Bill be entered in the Journal, and printed in the Votes, that the Public may have an Opportunity of considering and offering their Sentiments thereupon; whereby in some future Session, one more agreeable and useful may be proposed.

*Col. Lloyd*, from the Upper House, delivers Mr. Speaker the Bill entituled, *An Act empowering the Vestrymen and Churchwardens of Christ-Church Parish, in Calvert County, to build a Chapel of Ease in the said Parish, &c.* And,

A Bill entituled, *An Act for erecting a County School in Worcester County, and appointing Visitors for the same.*

Which Bills were thus Indorsed, "By the Upper House of Assembly, July 1, 1746. Read the second Time, and will pass.

"Signed per Order, *J. Ross*, Cl. Up. Ho."

And