

House, or Materials, it is however not only expedient, but even necessary, to give such Directions for the securing and preserving them, as that they may be useful and serviceable for what Purposes they may be hereafter applied to; and we shall readily concur in whatever Measures your House thinks fit for this End.

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

The following Message being prepared, *viz.*

By the Lower House of Assembly, *June 11, 1748.*

May it please your Honours,

IN Answer to your Message of this Day by *Benedict Calvert, Esq;* your Honours agree, that what we observe with Regard to the true and genuine Design of the Inspection Law, in the Deduction of one Fourth of the Tobacco, is certainly right, that a Liberty was given to the Debtors thereby to pay but three Fourths. We are sorry that an Intention so universally approved should meet with any Obstruction, in being carried into Execution; especially in a Point so essentially necessary, for preventing avaricious and crafty Creditors from having it in their Power to gain, by Subtily and Evasion, a greater Sum from their unhappy Debtors, than what the Legislature designed as a just Equivalent under the said Law; by means whereof the People are subject to Oppression, and that Justice and Equity, intended between the Creditor and Debtor, entirely frustrated, and the poor distressed Debtor drawn into a Snare, that he can be truly said not to have in his Power to avoid; For it is well known how little Freedom of Action a Person under such Circumstances enjoys; and should such evasive Construction prevail, it must be manifestly injurious to the Scope and Design of the said Law. We think it not only consistent, but becoming the Legislature, to remedy an Evil so obvious; and tho' particular Inconveniencies may happen sometimes, under a Law penned with the greatest Deliberation, yet we conceive, that as the Legislative Body have, or ought to have, the Felicity of the People whom they govern at all Times in View, and shew their good Inclination by the greatest Willingness to contribute a Remedy to any Evils that may happen as soon as discovered; so ought, in more especial Manner, Regard to be had (we apprehend) in the present Case, as your Honours well know with what Difficulty the said Law was gained, and it seemed at that Time to be the View of both Houses to amend any Thing that might be defective at an after Session. We shall be concerned, if your Honours should not concur with us in aiding a Defect so much for the keeping up to the true Plan of the said Law, the dispensing, as we apprehend, equal Justice; which is so much for the Ease and Security of the People in general.

We must also observe to your Honours, that the Commencement of the Law was not protracted to *December* next, in order to give Creditors an Opportunity of securing their Debts by any Composition or Agreement with their Debtors; but for the Country's receiving an Account of the Fate of the said Law, before they proceeded to carry the same into Execution; so we apprehend that such Creditors have unfairly proceeded to compel such Debtors to enter into new Contracts and Bonds, in order to evade the said Law, and deprive such Debtors of that Abatement, which the whole Legislature thought highly just and reasonable: And therefore we make no Doubt but that your Honours will approve of the Clause, which so greatly contributes to the Ease and Well being of the People.

Signed per Order, *M. Macnemara*, Cl. Lo. Ho.

It was moved, that the foregoing Message be presented by Mr. Speaker, attended by the whole House, and being so *Resolved*,

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and, attended by all the Members, went to the Upper House, and presented the said Message.

Mr. Speaker, with the Members, returned, and resumed the
Chair.

Daniel