

twice refused it, we did in our third Bill, appoint, for Collectors, the several Sheriffs, who, as they are Gentlemen already appointed by the Government to such considerable Trust, we conceived, would not have been objected to by your Honours; and they were to have given Bond in 400 *l.* as you proposed; and this we consented to, urged by the Miseries our Frontier Inhabitants have already experienced, and are hourly in Dread of, and the Danger threatening the whole *British* Interest in *America*; nevertheless, insisting on our undoubted Right to the Nomination of Commissioners or Collectors of every new Tax or Duty, which may be imposed upon the People for any Purpose whatever.

We could not have imagined you would have refused to pass a Bill of the Importance that was of, purely because the Wealthy, Opulent, and Luxurious, were to pay a Duty on some of the Liquors they would have consumed, as well as the Poor, the Laborious, and the Indigent Part of the Community, on the most they would expend for the Term of Five Years: Nor do we see the dangerous Tendency of such a Tax, as there was not any Power given to the Collectors of it to enter the House of private Consumers on any Pretence: But it depended upon their Integrity to account for the Tax without Molestation, or pay a Sum certain, half yearly, in Lieu thereof; one or the other of which, we presume, every Well-Wisher to his Country would cheerfully do.

We do not find any Law in Force against bringing into this Province, from *Pennsylvania*, or the Territories thereto belonging, or from any other Province or Colony on this Continent, any Horses, Mares, Colts, or Fillies, as you are pleased to say there is. We did not suppose his Lordship would be unwilling that any of his Officers should do any reasonable Act (and for which they had, by the Bill, a sufficient Reward given them towards carrying into Execution any Law calculated for his Majesty's Service in general, and our own Security in particular.

A Clause was inserted in our third Bill, as it was in our second, for exempting Persons voluntarily enlisting, and bearing Arms for six Months, from Payment of all Manner of Taxes, from Labouring on Highways, and Payment of Ferriages, for the Space of two Years from the Date of their Discharge.

The Commissioners of the Paper-Currency-Office were by our third, as they were by the second Bill, to have settled and adjusted the Accounts of the Land-Tax-Collectors, in Case of a Disagreement between the Rent-Roll-Keepers and the said Collectors about the Settlement thereof.

We did presume that the exact Quantity of Acres, contained in his Lordship's Manors and Reserved Lands, was well known, and that his Lordship's Agent might, without Difficulty, give an Account thereof; but as you say it is impossible for him to do it, we did in our second Bill, and also in our third, only oblige him to give an Account of the computed Quantities of such Manors and Reserved Lands.

The Duty on Convicts was in our third Bill, and also in our second, excepted out of the Clause for Continuance of the several other Duties, as you propose; tho' we do not conceive the same contrary or repugnant to the Laws of *England*.

We directed by our third Bill, and the same was done by the second, a further Tax to be laid on Lands, to make up any Deficiency that might possibly (tho' contrary to our Expectations) happen, on the Funds appropriated to the replacing and bringing in the Sums of Money, granted by that Bill, in Five Years, tho' we are not acquainted with any such Instruction from his Majesty, as you say this must be done in Obedience to. If your Honours should still think, that your Objections are not obviated, or by the Amendments made, not sufficiently removed, we are sincerely willing, at this critical Juncture, when barbarous Savages are Depopulating our Frontier, and at the Instigation of a perfidious Enemy committing the most horrid Cruelties, to waive all Formalities and Punctilioes in the Mode of our Proceedings; and shall very cheerfully agree to a free Conference, not on the Subject-Matter of a Bill sent down with a Negative, as proposed by your Honours, but on the Subject-Matter of your Objections to our several Bills, in order to bring about the Passage of the Bill last sent up; excepting, however, the Tax on Liquors consumed by Persons not being Retailers, and the Appointment of Sheriffs to be Collectors of Excise, as provided by the last Bill, being Points from which we are determined not to depart, and therefore cannot agree to confer upon. As we cannot doubt your Honours joining us in this Proposal, we presume, you'll Name your Conferees, and acquaint us therewith as soon as possible. And now, having agreed to every probable Expedient (even the most irregular) for bringing about that desirable End, which we hope is aimed at by us all, we must insist, that our present Concessions shall not be drawn into Precedent, or any way construed as derogatory to our ancient and undoubted Right, in Case of all Bills for granting Aids or Supplies, to direct, limit, and appoint, in such Bills, the Ends, Purposes, Considerations, Conditions, Limitations, and Qualifications, of all such Grants, which ought not to be changed by the Upper House.

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