

By the UPPER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, December 15, 1757.

GENTLEMEN,

WE have returned you the Bill for Reducing the Allowances of the Members, &c. and altho' a Reduction of the Allowances of the Provincial and County Magistrates, does not appear to us to be necessary, yet we have agreed to it, that a Bill which may be made in other Respects so conducive to the Ease of the People, and the Dispatch of Public Business, may not be lost. The Alterations we now offer to your Amendments, are so plainly calculated to advance the End professed to be intended by this Bill, to correct the glaring Partialities, which some of your Propositions would introduce, and make the respective Parts of it consistent, that we can no more Doubt of your ready Concurrence with them, than we can suppose that your Amendments were proposed with a View of obliquely Defeating a Law too apparently beneficial to your Constituents, to admit of an absolute and direct Rejection.

In the first Enacting Clause you have offered by your Amendments, we propose that the Reduction may take Place from the Beginning of the present Session, and continue for Six Years, and therefore, instead of the Words, *from and after the End of this Session, for and during the Term of Four Years*, insert the following Words, *viz. [during this Session of Assembly, and for and during the Term of Six Years thereafter]*.

To the Preamble, introducing the next Clause, add, after the Word *Province*, the following Words [*and by the Dispatch of Public Business*]; and in the Enacting Part of this Clause, instead of the Word *Four*, insert *Six*; and in the same Manner alter the other Parts of the Bill, so that the Word *Six* may stand in the Place of the Word *Four*.

The next Alteration we offer, is to your Amendment, whereby 'tis directed that the Members of both Houses, and the Magistrates of the Provincial Court, be paid annually: This Amendment, we propose, may be entirely left out, or made more extensive, that other Claimants upon the Public may not have Reason to complain that we are Regardless of the Justice due to them, whilst we take an especial Care to secure to Ourselves a speedy and punctual Payment of our Allowances; but if you do not choose to wave this Amendment, we propose that it may be extended so as to include the Officers attending both Houses, and all Public Creditors who are usually paid in the Public Levy; and that a Committee composed of an equal Number of the Members of both Houses, agreeable to the last Levy Bill, and the usual Practice in such Cases, may be appointed to make the annual Assessment: In the Preamble, therefore, to the Clause directing the annual Assessment, after the Word *Court*, insert the following Words [*and the Officers attending both Houses of Assembly, and all other Public Creditors*]; and in the Enacting Part of the said Clause, strike out the Words, *and the said Committee, together with so many Members of the Upper House, not exceeding Two, as the said House shall think fit to appoint*; and in their Place, insert the following Words [*and Six Members of the Upper House, and Six Members of the Lower House, to be appointed by the said respective Houses*]; and after the Words *Commissioners aforesaid*, insert the following Words [*and also such Sums of Tobacco and Money as shall be due to the Officers attending both Houses of Assembly, and all other Public Creditors usually provided for in Levy Bills*].

You have taken Care, by a Proviso proposed by you as an Amendment to our Bill, that your Allowances shall be paid in your respective Counties: But why, Gentlemen? Upon what Principle of Equity, is your Convenience only to be consulted? And that of every other Person, whose Claim upon the Public is as justly and legally founded as yours, injuriously neglected? Here you seem to be too solicitous about your own Interest, to remember the common Justice due to others. That this Provision may be equal to all, whose Claims upon the Public rest on the same Foundation, insert the Words [*to the said Councillors*] after the Word *Allowances*; and after the Word *Delegates*, insert the Words [*and the Dues of all Provincial Magistrates, Officers attending both Houses, and other Public Creditors aforesaid*]; and after the Word *paid*, leave out the Words *to each Delegate*, and insert the Words [*in equal Proportions, in the respective Counties wherein they shall reside*]; and leave out the Words in the last Line of the said Proviso, *that the Delegates for such County*, and instead thereof, insert the Words [*that the said Persons*].

The last Alteration we shall trouble you with, is to the Proviso, by which 'tis directed, that all such Councillors who "shall serve in the General Assembly, and also all such Provincial Magistrates, who are, "or shall be, Inhabitants and Residents of the City of Annapolis, or whose Habitations are so near the said "City that they shall usually in Assembly or Provincial Court Time, lodge at Home, shall be allowed only "one Half the Sum that others are to be allowed under this Act." We presume it must have happened through some Mistake or Accident, that the Members of the Lower House, under the same Circumstance with Councillors and Provincial Magistrates, in respect of their Residence in the City of Annapolis, or the