

of the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the People, to Protect and Defend them as far as we are able, against all undue Exercise of Power, and every Omission and Neglect of Duty, in the Officers of this Government, from the Highest to the Lowest. This is the Spirit, we presume, that governed the late, it is the Spirit that governs this, House, and shall govern it as long as we have the Honour to set as one Branch of the Legislature of this Province.

We come now to the second Head of your Excellency's Message, relative to the Commissioners of the Paper Currency Office, and we shall have no occasion to detain you long upon it. We hoped, as the Monies paid so many Years ago into that Office, by *Trippe, Porter, and Bradford*, had not been accounted for by the Commissioners, it would have been a Motive with your Excellency more speedily to have complied with our Request to put their Bonds in Suit, in order to compel them to Credit the Public with it: And to satisfy your Excellency that the Commissioners are not intitled to that further Indulgence that you seem inclinable to give them, we beg leave to refer you to the Record of the Proceedings in the several Actions Prosecuted in the Provincial Court, at the instance of a former Lower House of Assembly, on the Sheriffs Bonds of *Trippe, Porter, and Bradford*, where you may see, that no less than Nine Actions were prosecuted against *Trippe*, and his Securities, on his Sheriff's Bonds pass'd in the Years 1740, 1741, and 1742; and that in each of those Actions, the said *Trippe*, and his Securities, severally Plead, that *Trippe* had paid the several Sums of Money collected by him as Sheriff of *Dorchester* County, for which his Bonds were severally sued, to the Commissioners of the Paper Office; and upon such Pleading, Issues were joined in all the said Actions; but that One only was Tried, in which the Jury found a General Verdict in favor of *Trippe*; that that Verdict was set aside, because one of the Jurors was no Freeholder, and a new Trial awarded; that the same Action was tried again at the next Term, by another Jury, who also gave a General Verdict in favour of *Trippe*; upon that Verdict Judgment was rendered, from which the Attorney-General prayed an Appeal, which was Granted but never Prosecuted; that the Attorney-General refused to prosecute the other Eight Actions against *Trippe* and his Securities, and suffered Non-Suits in them all; that no less than Seven Actions were Prosecuted against *Porter* and his Securities, on which Issues were severally joined, by the like Pleadings as were in those against *Trippe*; and that Three Actions were Prosecuted against *Bradford* and his Securities, in which Issues were, in the same Manner, and by the like Pleadings, severally joined; and that the Attorney-General refused further to Prosecute any One of those Actions against *Porter* or *Bradford*, but suffered Non-Suits in them all. When your Excellency has seen all this upon Record, which we hope you will give yourself the Trouble to do agreeable to your Resolution *with your own Eyes*, as you decently Declare you have little Reliance on the Candour of the Representatives of the People, will you presume that all these Non-Suits were suffered without the Privity and Consent of the Commissioners, who were so much Interested in the Event of those Suits? But suppose the Judgment rendered in favor of *Trippe* should be reversed, what will be the Consequence? Must there not be a New Trial? And is it not to be presumed that a Third Jury will give the same Verdict that the Two former have given? We must beg leave further to observe to your Excellency, that if the Reversal of the Judgment rendered by the Provincial Court in favor of *Trippe*, might be a good Reason against suing the Commissioner's Bonds, on account of that Judgment, it cannot be one why they should not be sued on account of the Money paid into that Office by *Trippe, Porter, and Bradford*, for which their Sheriffs Bonds were Sued, but not Prosecuted, because as we presume, the Commissioners were well satisfied that those Sheriffs would be able to prove the Payment of the Money into that Office for which their Bonds were sued: But your Excellency has been pleased to say, "that the Matter's having been *dormant* so many Years, may have given Col. *Hammond*, the only surviving Commissioner who could be affected by those Judgments, obtained long before my Arrival in the Province, Reason to conclude that this Affair would be no more stirred against him;" it was surely high Time then, to obviate an Argument that would be daily gaining additional strength by Delay; more especially as the Commissioner in Question has been so unreasonable as not to be satisfied with Two Verdicts (approved of by every disinterested By-stander) which leaves us little Room to hope that a Third would have any better Effect.

To conclude, we cannot dismiss this Subject without lamenting to your Excellency, that Want of Confidence, undeserved we think on our Part, with which you seem, of late, to entertain every Remonstrance of the Representatives of the People, however just and well founded, intomuch that the most frivolous Pretences and Evasions of the Persons who are the Subject of them, and, as in the present Instances, highly Interested in the Event, are sufficient to elude their Force, and frustrate our reasonable Expectations, and this in Particulars which so intimately concern the Public Funds, at a Time too, when the People labour under the Pressure of Taxes, which, however Necessary, are nevertheless extremely Grievous and Heavy to be borne: We must therefore upon this Point likewise renew our Application to your Excellency, that you will suffer this Affair