

We shall now proceed to consider, and endeavour to obviate, the several Objections to the Bill, which you have been pleased to point out in your Message of the 18th.

As to the first against the Preamble, because it asserts, that only the Delegates give and grant, your Honours certainly must be satisfied, when we remind you, that it is exactly conformable to the Sale of the Land Tax Acts in *England*, and for that Reason we think unexceptionable.

Your Objection to our assuming (as you are pleased to call it) the sole Nomination of the Officers mentioned in the Bill, we presume is against our Right of nominating Commissioners for executing that Part of the Bill relating to an Assesment on real and personal Estates, &c. In Support of this Right, we need only mention, that it is a Right indisputable in the House of Commons at Home: This your Honours must know, if you have ever look'd into the Land Tax Acts, where, in many of them may be found, the Names at large of all the Commissioners for the several Counties and Places in *England*; in others an Appointment (without naming them) of the Commissioners named in some preceding Act: The same Rights we find exercised by the Commons in the Nomination of Commissioners in Bills for examining and stating Public Accounts.

What Argument then can be drawn from his Lordship's Charter? Will it be contended that the King has granted by that Charter a Power which the Crown does not exercise, or even attempt to exercise? Surely it will not. His Lordship's Power by the Charter to appoint Officers, cannot be greater than that from whence it is derived, and never could be intended to extend to Officers of the Kind (if you will call them Officers) nominated in the Bill. As the House of Commons exercises that Power, does it not reasonably follow that the Right here is in this House?

To this Part of the Bill, then, your Honours may be assured we shall unalterably adhere, not assuming to ourselves a new Power in the Nomination of Commissioners, but exercising that Power as one of our just and constitutional Rights; we shall not therefore suffer the Estates of the People to be taxed by Officers deriving their Power from the sole Appointment of the Lord *Baltimore*: Gentlemen are nominated Commissioners in the Bill, against whom no reasonable Objection can lay, and who can look with Contempt upon Insinuations, that their being any Way accountable to us for their Conduct, would have any undue Influence over their Actions.

Your Honours, after enumerating every particular Duty to be performed under this Act by the Commissioners or Trustees of the Paper Office, for which they are each of them to receive the Sum of Ten Pounds and no more, conclude, "These are the Services required from them, and this the Reward given by this Bill to those Officers, who have been appointed by the Government." Is this fair and candid? Permit us to say, and to shew, that it is not. These Commissioners, under the first Paper Currency Law, receive an annual Salary of Eighty Pounds, for which very few Services remain at this Time to be done, and those are chiefly performed by their Clerk, who by the same Act has a Salary of Eighty Pounds *per Annum*. By the 40,000 *l.* Act, these Commissioners have, during the Continuance of it, Ten Pounds *per Annum* added to the above Salary, and very few Duties are prescribed, but such as may be, and are done, by their Clerk, who also by the same Act has an additional Salary of Ten Pounds *per Year*. In Consideration then of their Salary of Ninety Pounds *per Year*, the present Bill adds to the few Services they have to perform under the former Laws, the several Duties mentioned in your Honour's Message; all which, except that of superintending the Printer, and of signing the Bills (for the Numbering and Dating is done by the Clerk) and attending their Office two Days in the Week (which they ought long ago to have been obliged to) will very little increase the Trouble of the Office.

In this View, we are persuaded, every one must see those Commissioners are not unjustly burthened by the Bill, and we are afraid it will appear but too plain, from this trifling Objection, spun out to so great a length, that your Honours are more Solicitous to give ill Impressions of the Bill, than by a candid and dispassionate Procedure, to endeavour to perfect it in those Parts which you may really be of Opinion are defective. The Office of the Agents, by the Bill, is a Business distinct from any other, and must be attended with considerable Trouble and Expence: They have no standing Salary, nor any Clerk appointed that has one; they must necessarily employ a Clerk, and must pay him a considerable Sum of Money for his Trouble: This is sufficient, without enumerating all the Duties of their Office, to distinguish it from that of the Commissioners of the Loan Office, and to shew it was reasonable to give them a full Reward by the Bill.

We cannot devise any better or easier Way of coming at the Knowledge of the Quantum of his Lordship's Manors, and Reserved Lands, than that prescribed by the Bill; however, if the Words, according to the best Information he has, are thought too vague and undeterminate, if better can be pointed out, which may answer the End proposed, we shall readily consent to change them.