

Uncultivated Lands, 'tis true, yield no present annual Profit, but they are generally reserved in that State by the Owners from a Prospect of reaping considerable Advantages thereby hereafter; and as they are of Value, we suppose the Owners would regret the Loss of them, and should consequently be Taxed for their Security. But to prevent the Burthens falling on any other Part of the Owners Estate, by the Payment of a Tax for such Lands, they may be sold, and the Money put out to Interest, which would yield Five per Cent. at least.

The Tenant's Power to Retain, we think, is plainly enough expressed, and adequate to the End of giving it; and tho' some Inconveniencies may arise from it, we apprehend, they will be but rare, and we don't think it would be proper, at this Time, to go into an Alteration of the Bill on that Head; if found to be a considerable Evil, it may be remedied hereafter; or if we can be made sensible, that the Clause is any way deficient for the Purposes intended by it, we would readily agree to amend it. The Oath appointed to be taken by the Clerk of the Loan-Office is so nearly in Substance and Words the same with that in the 40,000 *l.* Act, that we cannot think it needs any Alteration: Had you mentioned wherein you thought it materially varied, we should probably have agreed with you in amending it. The former Bonds of Officers have been heretofore made liable where a new Duty has been imposed on, and a new Trust reposed in them, of a Nature similar to the old, and not to be attended with any very considerable additional Labour, on a Presumption, as we suppose, that their Securities would have no Apprehensions in such Cases of being made liable for a Breach. The Power given the Assessors by our Bill, so nearly resembles that given to the Assessors by the Land Tax Bills at Home, that we cannot be apprehensive of any Inconvenience flowing from it, as we have no Reason to doubt the Execution of it with equal Justice and Impartiality; and we presume the Experience of our Mother Country will justify our not admitting any Alteration in it.

If ready Money lays at Hazard, it should be put some Way into Circulation, and then it will be of the Use Money was intended for. If there be Quantities of Plate so hidden from the World by any Person, that even his Domestic are unacquainted with it, it is become an useless Treasure; and it is Time it should some way be rendered useful to the Community, tho' the Owner may not choose to use it himself. There is little room to apprehend Rapine by the Discovery of our ready Money and Plate, by Means of this Bill; and we should consider, that through Fear of parting with a little, we may permit our Enemies to seize the whole of our Property.

There is nothing appears more reasonable to us, than the Tax on that Part of the Proprietor's Revenue which arises from his Quit-Rents, and it is by no Means the less just, because it has not been before attempted in this Province, or established in any other Colony: If it is just and right in itself, it ought to be done, whether the Governor is at large, or is restricted; but we shall never presume, that our Lord Proprietary would give any Instructions for preventing a Tax on his Estate here, so as to obstruct Grants for his Majesty's Service, and the Security of his own Estate, as well as ours; but, on the contrary, would, on all such Occasions, freely contribute equally with his Tenants, towards the Protection of his own and their Property, and to the Support of the Common Cause against his Majesty's Enemies.

We have understood that it is the general, nay, almost the universal Opinion of the neighbouring Colony, that the Proprietary Estate ought to be Taxed, and whatever Situation the Disputes on this Head may be in at Home, if they are carried thither, we know, that by a late Bill there, which we have Reason to believe will at length be passed, the Proprietary Estate is Taxed. The Quit-Rent, together with the Caution or Purchase-Money, was no doubt originally thought to be a Render proportionate to the Value of the Land: And it is sufficiently oppressive, that after our Ancestors were enticed by moderate Terms of taking up Lands, to transport Themselves, Families and Fortunes hither, their Children should have new Terms imposed upon them, both as to the Purchase-Money and Quit-Rent.

As it is not expressed in our Grants, that we should undertake the Burthen of Defending Ourselves, we cannot see how it can arise from the Nature of them, or be a Consideration in them: And if the undertaking the sole Burthen to defend, not only our own, but the Proprietary's, Property, was a Consideration in our original Grants, why did the Proprietor alter the Condition of Taking up Lands from Two Shillings per Hundred Acres to Four Shillings, and, from That to Ten Shillings? And why, the Purchase Money from Forty Shillings to Five Pounds per Hundred Acres? While in his Majesty's Colony of *Virginia*, the Terms, we are informed, have always remained the Same: But admitting that in all Cases of Self-Defence, the People alone should bear the Expence, and that the Proprietor should not be any way Burthened, should he, for that Reason, be exempt from Contributing with the rest of the King's Subjects, in a Grant of a Sum of Money to be applied chiefly for his Majesty's Service in the Common Cause of Liberty? We hope not. The Laws which you mention being long since Repealed, we shall not at present take any Notice of them.