

Saturday, October 29.

THE House met according to Adjournment: The Members were called, and all appeared as Yesterday, except Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Magruder*, and Capt. *Chapline*. The Proceedings were Read. *John Ridout*, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Message;

By the UPPER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, 29th October, 1763.

GENTLEMEN,

AS we observe by your Message of the 25th, that you admit the Propriety of some of our Remarks on the Inspection Law, communicated to you the 18th Instant, and that you are willing to pay due Regard thereto in Framing a new Bill, we shall, in Order to prevent the Sessions being protracted to such a length as it might be, were the two Houses to enter into a Dispute by Messages, about the Expediency of the several Alterations, which both we and you have mentioned as proper to be adopted in a new Inspection Law, communicate to you, in a few Words, our Opinion with regard to the Alterations proposed.

Altho' we are still of Opinion, that it would be for the Advantage of the Planter, to shorten the Time for closing the Inspection in the Manner we proposed, as by this Regulation the Damage attending a Winter Passage, would be prevented, the Expence of Freight consequently lessened, the Benefit of the *European* Markets secured, and of Course the Produce of the Tobacco the sooner answerable to the Orders of the Consignor; however should you, upon mature Consideration, choose to extend the Time to the 20th of *July*, we consent that the 20th of *July* should be substituted in the Place of the last of *June*.

If you have any Reason to think, that by leaving out the Seventy-second, and Seven following Sections, or the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth, any artful designing Creditor may take the Advantage of an honest unwary Debtor, it is our Desire that either those Sections may be continued, or that some proper Clause may be inserted in a new Bill, that will effectually prevent the Success of such villainous Attempts, as our sole Design in leaving them out, was to shorten the Law as much as possible, on a Presumption that as it has already subsisted Fifteen Years, there would not now remain any room for Evasion.

We think that the Justice due to those who are entitled to receive Tobacco in *Worcester* County, requires the Suppression of *Baltimore* Warehouse: So inconvenient is the Situation of it, that those who are paid Tobacco there, are put to the Expence of at least Twenty-five Shillings per Hog-head to carry it to navigable Water, and as there is an Allowance of Ten per Cent for Convenience, the Purchasers of that Convenience ought to have it.

We apprehend that the Expence of Shrinkage, as it is now regulated, is too great, and recommend to you the forming a Clause in the new Bill, by which the Clergy and Others entitled to the Payment, may not be compellable to receive a Transfer Note in Payment, after Three Months from it's Date.

As we have been informed, that Crop Tobacco has remained in some Warehouses from the first Year of the Inspection to the present Time, without any Claim or Demand, we submit it to your Consideration; whether it might not be expedient, after Tobacco shall have remained Three Years after the Inspection thereof, and no Claim or Demand made, or Notice given to the Inspectors by the Proprietor, to direct the Inspectors to make a Return of all Tobacco under such Circumstances to the next *November* Court after the Expiration of the said Three Years, and then expose to Sale the same, together with the Transier then liable to be Sold, and that what shall arise from the Sale thereof, be applied to the Use of the County wherein the Warehouse shall be, and that the same be repaid by the said County to the Proprietor of the Tobacco, in case any should afterwards appear to claim and make out his Property in the said Tobacco, to the Satisfaction of the Justices of the said County.

To the first Fifteen Amendments that you propose, and the Twentieth, we have no Objection; Nor to the Nineteenth, so far as it relates to Crop Notes.

We will adopt your 16th and 18th Propositions, if you confine the Execution of the Duty to the Justices, who may attend to discharge it, and pay them the same as they are allowed for their Attendance at the County Courts; and we do Reject your 17th, as not at all necessary.

It was our Intention when we proposed to insert Sterling throughout the Law instead of Currency, to rate Dollars at Four Shillings and Six Pence each, and to make them a legal Tender in Discharge of Sixty Pounds of Tobacco to all Persons who should, under the proposed Act, have a Right to receive either Sterling Money or Tobacco: so that the People, if a Clause to this Purpose is inserted, would not, with regard to the Payment of Officers Fees, and the Thirty per Poll, have the least Reason to be dissatisfied; and if you think fit to regulate the Inspectors Salaries in Sterling, payable in Dollars at Four Shillings and Six Pence each, we shall readily agree thereto.

If, Gentlemen, upon Consideration of what we have now offered, you shall be of Opinion that a Law, Framed agreeable to such of our Amendments as we adhere to, (of which what relates to the Regulation of Dollars is one) and such of your Propositions as we agree to, will be advantageous