

Mr. Johnson, from the Committee appointed, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Message, &c.

By the LOWER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, November 8th, 1763.

May it please your HONOURS,

WE doubt not but that the Justices are sufficiently qualified to do the Duty, in the Discharge of which we proposed to join with them the Gentlemen who are Representatives of each County; but if their former Transactions might be admitted in our Conjectures as to the future, we could not but be Apprehensive that the People would still suffer, as we know they have a long Time done, and now do, in most Places, for want of Warehouse Room, Wharfs, Cranes, and other Conveniences, requisite by Law, and for which they are annually Taxed.

We did not assert, that the People in General loudly complained of the illegal Exaction of Officers, but that we knew their Complaints to be many and loud with regard to the illegal Charges of Fees by Officers, and this we do still assert, and know they are far from being devoid of reasonable Grounds, and that they have not flow'd from Ignorance, or been excited by Misrepresentation. That an Officer may at present be punished by Law for an illegal Exaction, we are not ignorant; but, from a Love of Quiet and Ease in some, Tenderness in Others, and Ignorance and Inability in many more to remedy themselves, the Cause of Complaint still subsists.

We cannot see how it can be inferred from any Thing we have proposed or said, that we think the Officers deserve generally to be branded, and we must express our Surprize, that your Honours should insinuate, that an Inquiry by the Country into the Conduct of an Officer, whose Probity and Humanity is equal to that of any other Gentleman in this Province, would be harrassing him to humour Ignorance and Credulity, gratify Envy, or appease the Malevolence of Enmity: Such Sentiments and Expressions we do not think applicable to the Conduct of the People of this Province, and we wish were omitted in political Discussions between the Branches of the Legislature. The Characters of Probity and Humanity would shine the brighter after every Inquiry, and if there should be any contrary Characters, they would only be exhibited in the Light they ought to be view'd in.

However, as you disagree to the first of these two last Propositions, and reject the other, we shall contend no more about them at present, but leave it to Time to evince the Expediency of adopting them hereafter.

To the total Change of the Species, in which the Expences of executing the Law, and the Money Payments under it, are ascertained, which is now the only matter of Difference between the two Houses, we cannot content. Dollars notoriously pass in *New-York* and *Pennsylvania*, with which we have considerable commercial Connections, at Seven Shillings and Six Pence, and upwards, and Foreign Gold at or above the Rates mentioned in our Inspection Law, and in *Virginia* Dollars pass higher than the Statute Regulation. Contracting Parties here for several Years past have mutually understood, that Gold and Silver at those Rates, should be paid in Discharge of their Contracts, unless a different Specie or Rate hath been stipulated: On this bottom subsisting Debts generally now stand, occasioned principally by the Inspection Law Regulation of Coin; and whilst we see the extensive Influence of that Regulation, we are apprehensive that a different Regulation will have the like Effect, by drawing after it general Contracts, and a disadvantageous change of those already made into the Inspection Law Species; a ruinous Consequence should it be into Sterling: Besides, the Spirit and Design of the Statute we are apprehensive will be frustrated by the Effects of your Proposition; for the abovementioned Colonies will draw the Specie from hence by its higher Denomination there. For these Reasons, and as the Statute makes no mention of Gold, we propose, in the Framing a new Inspection Law, to regulate Foreign Gold as it now stands in the Old, ascertaining the Charges of executing the Law in Currency and Sterling, and giving the Payer of any of the Inspection Expences, Public and County Levies, Clergy's Allowance, Lawyers and Officers Fees, and other Payments under the Inspection Law, of Money instead of Tobacco, an Alternative of Paying in Current Money, or regulated Gold or Sterling Money; Payments in Sterling for Tobacco to be as you propose at Seven Shillings and Six Pence per Cent; and as a sufficiency of Sterling Specie cannot be had, a Clause to be inserted, to make the Species of Silver mentioned in the Statute of *Anne* legal in Payments, and Tenders of Sterling payable by the Act at their Statute estimated Sterling Values. As this will not in any wise Contravene the Statute, will in some Measure secure our commercial Transactions on their true Basis, prevent our Neighbours from drawing our Specie from us, and render us secure against Inconveniencies, inevitably attendant on an Increase of our Sterling Engagements, we hope for your Honours ready Concurrence to this Proposition, that we may speedily Frame a Law so desirable to every Degree of People in this Province, from it's confessed general Utility.

Signed per Order,

M. MACNEMARA, Cl. Lo. Ho.

Was sent to the Upper House by Mr. Murdock, and Mr. Johnson.

The House adjourns till II of the Clock Afternoon.

POST-MERIDIEM. The House met according to Adjournment, &c.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the more effectual securing of Orphans Estates;*

The Bill, entitled, *A Supplementary Act to the Act, entitled, An Act relating to the Standard of English Weights and Measures;* And

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