

they were vested in the Royal Person, to support his Dignity, and maintain his Power, as an affluent Supply for the ordinary Expences of his Government, and were provided for the Support of public Authority, in a Manner the least burthensome to Individuals, and considered as a Portion which each Subject contributed of his Property to secure the Remainder; and, for those Ends and Purposes, those Rights and Revenues were annexed to the Supreme Power, by the Laws and Customs of the State; and, your Committee are the more confirmed in this Opinion, by finding that in former Times the Kings of *England* did constantly and uniformly defray the Expences of, and support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and every Branch of the Civil Government, such as the Payment of their Officers of State, their Judges, and other Matters respecting the Executive Powers of Government, out of those Revenues, without calling on the People to raise Monies on themselves for those Purposes: In latter Times, when by improvident Grants, &c. to private Persons, they were so impaired as not to remain sufficient to support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and the Expences of the Civil Government, and that Demands were made on the People for a further Supply; the Parliament took Care that an Account should be rendered of all those Crown Revenues that were left, the Demesne Lands not excepted, and when they substituted other Funds, by Taxes on the People to make up that Deficiency, and to establish a sufficient annual Sum, together with those Revenues still left, to support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and the Expences of the Civil Government. They at the same Time took Care to provide, that for the future it should not be in the Power of the Kings and Queens of the Realm, to grant away any of those Revenues annexed to the Crown by the Constitution, for any Time longer than their own Lives, nor Lease or Let the Crown Lands longer than a certain Number of Years, and reserving Rents by which Means and by Escheats and Forfeitures that might hereafter happen, and by the Determination of many particular Estates, whereon many Reversions and Remainders in the Crown did depend, the Revenues of the Crown might again be increased, and consequently the Burthen on the Estates of the Subject might be eased and lessen'd in all future Provisions to be made for the Expences of the Civil Government, and by that Means the Crown would come to the next Successor without any of those Revenues then left, being further impaired, and with all future casual Additions. This, together with the Recitals in the several Revenue Bills, and those for taking and stating the public Accounts, does clearly, in the Opinion of your Committee, evince, that those Revenues were deemed, in the Sense both of King and Parliament, of a public Nature, and for the public Use; and accordingly, we find, have been inquired into and accounted for under the Acts of Parliament last mentioned, and more particularly as to Fines and Forfeitures, they are looked upon as Part of the Profits arising from the King's Courts of Justice, and are said to go to the King, for the Trouble and Charge he is at in holding Courts, and bringing Offenders to Justice. This being the Case with Respect to the Crown Revenues, your Committee are of Opinion, that the Lords Proprietary of this Province cannot claim greater Advantages, Prerogatives, and Immunities, than belong to the Kings of *Great-Britain*, nor ought they to expect the People here to support the Civil Government in every Branch thereof, whilst they dispose, at their Will and Pleasure, of all the Revenues appropriated by the Constitution of the Mother-Country to public Uses. And, altho' our Ancestors did, very improvidently, in the Infancy of the Country, when these Incomes and Revenues of the Lord Proprietary, arising from the Courts of Justice, and otherwise, were inconsiderable, make a perpetual Provision for many of those Expences; yet, when the People are called upon for a further Supply, towards the Support of any of the Officers of his Lordship's Government, not provided for by perpetual Laws, your Committee are of Opinion, that in such Case the People have a Right inherent in the Constitution to call on his Lordship, or his Governor, to render an Account of the Monies arising from those Revenues, and to have the same applied in Case of their Burthens, unless it should appear that those Monies have been already applied to public Uses, and that his Lordship has not the same absolute, uncontrollable Right to them, as to any Part of his private Estate, as has been alledged.

And your Committee are also of Opinion, That tho' the Act of Assembly does direct, that the Provincial Amerciaments shall be applied as the Governor and Council shall direct, yet, the Legislature did intend, to such public Use as they should direct, and never meant to give them a private Property therein; and under that Idea we doubt they have heretofore directed them to be paid to the Clerk of the Council, towards his Support as an Officer of the Government.

And your Committee are clearly of Opinion, That whenever new Taxes are demanded to defray the Expences of Government, it becomes the Duty of the Representatives of the People, to have an Account rendered of all Provincial Amerciaments, as well as of all Fines and Forfeitures at the Common Law, and of all Forfeitures received in Virtue of any Laws of this Province, limiting the same to the Lord Proprietary, for the Support of Government, that their Constituents may see that all those Monies are rightly applied for the Use declared, and the Province in general thereby eased in the Taxes laid on them, or attempted to be laid on them, for supporting the Expences of Government.

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