

now to be remedied; but I shall communicate the Reports of your Committee, and your Address, to the Gentlemen, who at present have Custody of the Records and Papers you mention, and will recommend it to them, as far as lies in their Power, to make any further Application to me, on such a Subject, unnecessary.

ROBERT EDEN.

The Message brought in Yesterday by Mr. *Chafe* was read a Second Time, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. *Chafe* brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the said Message, engrossed: Which was read and assented to, and sent to the Upper House, with the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Payment of John Duckett and others*, by Mr. *J. Hall* and Mr. *W. Pava*.

They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the Message and Bill.

Mr. *Johnson* brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Message, viz.

By the LOWER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, November 17, 1770.

May it please your HONOURS,

FROM recapitulating in your Messages particular Parts of your Conduct in our Intercourse on the Inspection Bills, in the last and present Session, you seem desirous of doing something more than removing, as far as you can, all Misunderstanding, or to shew the proper State to which the Matter has been brought: Your Honours will therefore permit us to place, in One View, our Conduct on the Subject, as well as some Part of yours, which you may inadvertently have omitted. After an Enquiry into the Amount of Fees, in the principal Offices, as well as into their State and Condition, and being satisfied of the Exorbitancy of the Profits, and the negligent and careless Manner in which those Offices have been executed; we compared many Accounts in which the Fees of Office were charged, with the old Regulation, which ought to have governed therein; and finding that many Articles had become Common-Place Charges, in Instances where no Service at all was done; that others were doubly charged; and observing that generally, where combined Interest and Ingenuity could invent a colourable Pretence for a new Charge, it had been adopted by Fellow-Officers, we thought it highly necessary, in the now altered Circumstances of the Province, not only to recur to the Principle of 12/6 per Cent. on which the Inspection Law was first enacted in 1747, but also to make a clear and precise Table of Fees for Officers, that none might hope, from a Doubtfulness of Expression, to evade the plain Intention of the Law. The dependent Provisions we also amended by Additions to the Oath, as well as Penalties against charging Fees not allowed; in some few of the very unreasonable Allowances we moderated the Quantum, and, for the Convenience of the Tobacco Makers, we extended the Time for closing the Inspection to the 20th of August. On this Bill your Honours the last Session endorsed your Negative, which came to us with your Message, proposing principally, "That the Duties and Fees of the Officers and Lawyers, and the Dues of the Clergy, do stand as they were limited and regulated by the said Act, with this Difference, that all, who shall chuse to pay for Services immediately on Performance, may be at Liberty to discharge the Fees in Money, after the same Rate that Persons who lodged Certificates under the said Act were admitted to discharge them."

"That the Farmers and others not making Tobacco, and who shall lodge Certificates, as directed by the said Act, be allowed to pay off the Fees of the Officers and Lawyers, and the Dues of the Clergy, in the Manner by the said Act provided."

"That Persons making Tobacco, be admitted to discharge the Fees of Officers and Lawyers, and Dues of the Clergy, after the Rate of Twelve Shillings lawful Current Money of America for One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, so that such Payment in Money be made on or before the Tenth Day of April Yearly." By which your Honours were for departing from the Principle of the Regulation of 1747, in rejecting the Alternative to the People: The Officers would, in many Instances, have been Gainers from those who might have small Accounts to pay, and who would rather have paid at 12 s. legal Money, than have been at the Trouble of going a considerable Distance to make Oath and obtain a Certificate of their not making Tobacco, to entitle them to pay at 12/6 common Money; and the seeming Benefit to the Tobacco Maker, from an immediate Payment in Money, would have been no Advantage to him in common Occurrences, because in Court Proceedings generally he could not know what to tender, or the Officer what to receive, at the Time the Business was done; and it must seem probable to your Honours, that as it would be incumbent on the Planter to tender enough, it would be the Officer's Intention to receive enough. As this House did not conceive any of these Propositions were made merely to reflect Merit on yourselves, in giving them up on a Conference, they were scarce sooner read than unanimously rejected in this House.

To prevent the Inconvenience which must necessarily follow an unexpected Fall of a Regulation of our Staple which had long been in Use, we soon afterwards sent a Bill to your Honours to close the Accounts and Transactions of the Inspectors, and provide for the Payment of the County Levies and Parochial Charges, which have been intimately connected with the Inspection Act: And still further to lessen the Burden on the People of Tobacco Payments, we sent you another Bill, to give an Alternative in the Payment of Lawyers Fees, which stood in Tobacco, on a legal Establishment; but you defeated our Intentions, by proposing an Amendment, by which all those Parts of the Bill which provided for the Payment of the County Levies and Parochial Charges would have been left out, and by proposing a Regulation on Lawyers, which your House was never fond of, but to destroy those of the Profession who have concurred with others in opposing the Encroachments of Power. Your Honours then sent us down a Bill to continue the Inspection Law and the Supplementary Act thereto, except the Parts therein