

therein excepted; which would have continued the Regulation of the Staple separate from that of the Fees of Officers, and would also have continued the Mode of paying the Levy; but for some Reason or other there speedily followed, by your Advice as a Council of State, an abrupt Prorogation, which put an End to that Bill. With very few and small Alterations we again, as soon as could be, sent you the Inspection Bill, which still lies before you, and has been the Occasion of many Messages, which we are apprehensive have not, even yet, fully removed all Misunderstanding between us.

We do not clearly comprehend what your Honours call Abuses, and, by your Language in the Two last Messages, are of Opinion you are unacquainted with what we call Abuses. We now therefore request your Honours will be pleased to inform us, Whether you esteem the Fees charged by the Commissary General, for Services done by the Deputies, and for which they are paid, which have been estimated at the annual Amount of above 60,000 Pounds of Tobacco, an Abuse of the old Regulation, or not? Whether your Honours esteem the Charge for recording Papers by the Secretary and County Clerks in Actions discontinued, abated, struck off, or agreed, when they are not nor need be recorded, an Abuse or not? Whether your Honours esteem the Charge of 300 Pounds of Tobacco by Surveyors, for laying down adjacent Tracts, merely to correct the Errors of an original Survey, an Abuse or not? Whether your Honours esteem the Charge of 300 Pounds of Tobacco, as for a Resurvey, by a Surveyor, for surveying or laying down each Tract of Land, on a Warrant of Survey from the Provincial Court, an Abuse or not? And whether the like Charge of 300 Pounds of Tobacco, for any Tract laid down only for Illustration, is an Abuse or not? Whether your Honours esteem the Charge by the Examiner General, on every Plat laid down for Illustration, and on every Piece of Vacancy added, as on separate and distinct Tracts, an Abuse or not? Whether your Honours esteem the additional Charge of Order in the Commissary's Office, to almost every Act done therein, and which hath been estimated at the annual Amount of above 40,000 Pounds of Tobacco, when the Table makes the Allowance only "for Orders in testamentary Causes," an Abuse or not? Whether your Honours esteem a Charge for Services never performed, an Abuse or not? All these Charges we are most clear in Opinion are Abuses, and such as we are determined never to permit: To prevent, therefore, any Disappointment, we request your Honours will let us know explicitly your Sense of these Particulars. If you are of Opinion these are real Abuses, and a Correction appears to you to be expedient, we shall, on our being informed thereof, expect a happy Issue from the Conference which we proposed, and which on these Terms we are ready to enter into. We shall certainly instruct our Conferees, that these Charges are Abuses, and must in all Events be provided against; and unless your Honours agree with us herein, as no good Effects can be expected from a Conference, we have only to repeat our Request, that you will be pleased to let us know, whether you are willing to pass the Bill, as a Regulation of the Staple, Lawyers Fees, Clergy's Allowance, and the Payment of the Publick, County, and Parochial Charges, leaving Officers Fees to be provided for at a subsequent Session.

Signed by Order,

JOHN DUCKETT, Cl. Lo. Ho.

Which was read the First and Second Time, and the Question was put, That the House agree to the same? Resolved in the Affirmative.

		F O R T H E A F F I R M A T I V E.				
Messrs	{	Ringgold,	Smallwood,	J. Paca,	Contee,	Dashiell,
		Conat,	Ware,	Aq. Hall,	J. Hall,	Luckett,
		Worthington,	Harrison,	Gilpin,	W. Paca,	Heugh,
		Johnson,	Tighman,	Beall,	Wright,	Wootton.
		Griffith,	Deye,	Tyler,		
		F O R T H E N E G A T I V E.				
Messrs	{	Key,	Bordley,	Dickenfon,	Baxter,	Hopper,
		W. Thomas,	Ma kall,	N. Thomas,	Ward,	Allen,
		Eden,	Grahame,	Steele,	Hollyday,	Purnell.
		Buchanan,	Adams,	Veazy,		

ORDERED, That the said Message be engrossed.

The House adjourns till Monday Morning VIII o'Clock.

M O N D A Y, November 19, 1770.

THE House met according to Adjournment. The Members were called, and all appeared as on Saturday. The Proceedings of Saturday were read.

The Message, which was ordered to be engrossed on Saturday Evening, was read and assented to, and sent to the Upper House by Mr. Johnson and Mr. J. Hall.

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

The Bill, entitled, *A Supplementary Act to the Act, entitled, An Act to prevent disabled and superannuated Slaves being set free, or the Manumission of Slaves by any last Will or Testament*, sent to the Upper House by Mr. Allen and Mr. Bordley.

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

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