

“ that the present Clergy already inducted may be paid according to the late Inspection Act, and immediately on the Death or Removal of any of these Ministers, the People, as well as Planters as others, shall have it in their Option to pay for each taxable 30 Pounds of Tobacco *per Poll*, or Four Shillings,” which could not be done but by twice inserting the Title of the Bill, and repeating most of what had come from you before concerning the Clergy. Permit us to remark, that in the Year 1745 there was no Inspection Law, Tobacco Payments were made in the Planters Tobacco Houses: Tobacco was then estimated in our Laws at Ten, and might have been, and was commonly purchased at about Eight Shillings Currency *per Hundred*: Exchange was at about £. 220 Currency for £. 100 Sterling, and the Officers Fees were by the Bill of 1745 to have been payable in Tobacco only. By the Inspection Law passed in 1747 the Debtor who paid an old Tobacco Debt in inspected Tobacco was entitled to a Reduction of One Fourth Part of the Quantity due. About One Fifth was deducted from the Secretary and Commissary General's Fees, as agreed in the Bill of 1745. About One Fourth was deducted from the Fees taken by the other Officers in 1747, and the Farmers were indulged in the Payment of Officers Fees at Twelve Shillings and Six-pence *per Hundred*. Your Honours propose that the Regulation of Fees intended by the Bill of 1745 should now be established, that is with Respect to the Secretary and Commissary General's Offices, to say nothing of the other Offices, which would be also considerably increased; you modestly propose, if we will add about 25 *per Cent.* to the late Regulation of Fees in those Offices, you will readily agree with us; we cannot doubt it, but what great Benefit is to be obtained by the Country for this enormous Addition, why the double Charge in the Commissary General's Office shall be provided against in future, but lest this might be giving up too much, the Deputy Commissary's Jurisdiction must be lessened from Estates of £. 150 to 50 Pounds, whereby the poorer People would be deprived of the Ease and Convenience of having this Business done in their own Counties, or be at the Expence and Trouble of procuring Commissions.

We presume that we need urge Nothing further to your Honours to convince you that we ought not to come into your Expedients, without an attentive Consideration of them.

The Clergy's Dues being the Point next in Consequence, permit us to remark, you have not denied the Justice of extending the Alternative to the People to pay 30 *per Poll* in Tobacco, or in Money on 32. The Governor's Message, of the Propriety of which (and wherein he seemed himself to doubt) we can say Nothing, has determined your Action, though it does not seem to have convinced your Understanding: This very Fact ought to render probable, at least to you, what we have before asserted with regard to the Weight of the Regulation of Tobacco carrying thro' the former Lower Houses that of the Officers Fees. When we see the solemn Sanction of temporary Acts are set up in Opposition to, and are expected to bear down the Principles of Justice, we shall be cautious how we adopt Expedients. A general uniform Establishment of the Clergy is truly desirable: You must be sensible with us, that the People groan under a heavy and unequal Burthen, and as you can get Nothing by acting contrarily, we hoped for your united Efforts to obtain them Relief. We are sorry that we are disappointed in those Hopes: The Clergy are too much connected with Tobacco to leave them out of the Bill, nor shall we ever take them into it so unequally on the Tobacco Makers, unless we see something more easy to them in Reversion than Four Shillings; but even were we disposed to continue the old Regulation as to the present Clergy with the Alternative of 30^{lb} of Tobacco, or Four Shillings as to the future Clergy, we do not see what should at the End of Seven Years prevent another Message to your House, intimating his Excellency's Resolution to dissent to a Continuance of such Regulation, and thereby the present Design of a general uniform Establishment of the Clergy may be entirely defeated.

What has been the Practice or Usage in bringing Suits on Inspectors Bonds for the Non-payment of Tobacco according to their Notes or Receipts, we do not very well know, and believe few Suits have been brought on such Bonds. Persons interested in bonds taken in his Lordship's Name, have sometimes made Applications to the Governor by Petition, to assign such Bonds to bring Suits thereon. If such Applications are necessary to enable the Person interested to bring or maintain such Suit, as it should seem that the Application implies the Power of granting or rejecting the Petition, it would likewise seem as if the Governor might allow of, or prevent the Petitioner's Remedy on the Bond; as all Persons were by the Bill to be obliged to carry their Tobacco to the Inspecting Houses, and Inspectors Notes or Receipts were to have been legal Tenders, it follows as a Consequence, that the Person who thus being obliged, did carry his Tobacco to an Inspecting House, or the Person who being obliged, received an Inspector's Note or Receipt in Payment, should have it in his Power to recur to that Security he was obliged by Law to confide in, without the Leave of the Governor, and therefore the Bill intended to confer that Power.—On Non-payment of any Clergy's Dues, Officers or Lawyers Fees, Publick or County Levies, or Parochial Charges, by the 10th Day of *August* by the Bill, Money only was to be levied by Way of Execution. Your Honours first proposed to shorten the Time to the 10th of *April*, though you afterwards agreed to extend it to the 10th of *June*, and in Case the Defaulter was a Tobacco Maker, and owed for Officers or Lawyers Fees, you proposed the Execution should be for Tobacco. The Clergy's Dues were put out of this Question by your other Proposition, and the Publick and County Levies and Parochial Charges not being objected to, stood as in the Bill,

We have to observe, that confining the Time of Payment to the 10th of *June*, excludes the Hope to the Farmer of any Relief from Execution by his then growing Crop of Wheat; that generally laying the Planter under a Necessity of selling his Tobacco before the 10th of *June* is laying him under a Necessity of selling his Tobacco below its Value; that an Execution on a