

vent in future, Charges for recording under the Table of 1747, that should appear to be Abuses, would have been extremely incongruous.

It cannot but be expected, that under the Alternative extended to all Persons to pay in Money or Tobacco, very little, if any Tobacco would be paid, unless it should happen to fall to, or below the Value of the Money. On this Supposition, should the proposed Regulation of 1745 be established instead of that of 1747, we are well satisfied the Income of the Commissary-General, under the former, would be so far from exceeding his Income under the latter Regulation 25 per Centum, that it would rather fall short of it, in Consequence of the great Reduction in the Article of Services done by his Deputies.

It is most probable, that the Business in the Offices will be augmented with the increasing Population of the Country, but with the Business, so will the Trouble and every Expence increase.

It has been found in England, that Fees settled by a Statute of Henry the 8th, in some Testamentary Cases, notwithstanding the subsequent Increase of Business, have become so inadequate, from the Depreciation of Money, and the Augmentation of every Expence, that Practice and Alliance have established an Addition to them.

Though we have been at the Trouble of shewing at large, that your Construction of our Proposition is repugnant to our Meaning; yet to prevent any possible Impression being taken, that the Passage of the Bill failed because our Proposition extended to all Officers, we think it necessary most explicitly to declare, that we desire the Proposition may be understood to relate to the Commissary-General only.

You say, that "the Governor's Message, in Respect of the Clergy, had determined our Action, though it does not seem to have convinced our Understanding." The little Smartness of this Remark does not atone for the Injustice and Rudeness of it, as every one must perceive, who may happen to peruse our Propositions; to which we take the Liberty to add, that however offensive his Excellency the present Governor's Tenderness, on the Affair of the Clergy's Freeholds may be to you in the Year 1739, when Governor Ogle proposed the 40 per Poll should be discharged in Paper Money, at Ten Shillings per Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, the Lower House expressed themselves on the Subject in the following Terms: "This House is not acquainted with the Disposition of the Clergy in Point of their 40 per Poll, and shall always have a just Regard to that Reverend Body, nor attempt to intrude any Terms on them which may not suit their Inclinations to accept of; but shall always be ready and willing to receive such Proposals as they may judge suitable to make." Nor was this Sentiment of the Lower House in 1739 peculiar, for in all Bills for the Division of Parishes, Care has been taken not to affect the Inheritance in his Rights of Freehold, without his Consent.

"You hoped, as we could get Nothing by acting *contrarily*, for our united Efforts to obtain the Relief of the People" by a new Regulation of the Clergy's Dues. Whatever general Relief might arise from a new Establishment, we and our Connexions would equally partake of with others; but Relief is not to be gained by intemperate Exertions and imprudent Perseverance. Every practicable Method of Relief we could think of we have proposed, and you have rejected. Had your Invention struck out any other than has occurred to us, we should have examined it with Candour, and adopted it, if worthy of Adoption, with Alacrity. Your Bill indeed has proposed a Method, but you have found it to be unattainable, and is it the Part of Discretion to lose what you may get, when you can have no Prospect of obtaining what you wished to accomplish? We should have no Objection to the Continuance of a new Regulation of the Clergy, according to our Proposition, for Twelve or Fifteen Years; but an indefinite Duration of it we shall never agree to.

Sir Henry Spelman observes, that "Eight Bushels of Wheat were formerly estimated at Twelve-pence, as appears from an Assize of Bread in the 51st Year of Henry the 3d." In Blackstone's Commentaries, there is this Passage: "Bishop Fleetwood, about Sixty Years since, fully proved Forty Shillings per Annum in the Reign of Henry the 6th to have been equal to £. 12 per Annum in the Reign of Queen Anne, and as the Value of Money is very considerably lowered since the Bishop wrote, I think we may fairly conclude, from this, and other Circumstances, that what was equivalent to £. 12 in his Days, is equivalent to £. 20 at present."

The same Author speaking of the Stat. Elizabeth, which directs that "One Third Part of the old Rent then paid, should for the future be reserved on College Leases in Grain, reserving a Quarter of Wheat for each 6s. 8d. or a Quarter of Malt for every 5s. or that the Lessees should pay for the same, according to the Price that Wheat or Malt should be sold for in the Market next adjoining to the respective Colleges on the Market Day before the Rent becomes due," has these Words, "This is said to have been an Invention of Lord Burleigh, and Sir Thomas Smith, who, observing how greatly the Value of Money had sunk, and the Price of all Provisions risen by the Quantity of Bullion imported, (which Effects were likely to increase to a greater Degree) devised this Method for upholding the Revenues of Colleges. Their Foresight and Provision have in this Respect been very apparent; for tho' the Rents reserved in Corn were at first but One Third of the old Rent, or half of what was still reserved in Money, yet now the Proportion is nearly inverted, and the Money arising from Corn Rents is *Communibus Annis*, almost double to the Rents reserved in Money."

The decent Maintenance of the Clergy is an Object of great Importance, and not to be neglected; but the pecuniary Compensation now adequate, may hereafter, from Money's falling in Value, not afford them a competent support; and therefore an Act, a pecuniary Compensation, ought, we think, to be temporary.