

Erecting of Towns. But the Execution of that Act was soon after by *Proclamation* from his Lordship out of *England*, suspended the last Year, and all Officers Military and Civil, severely prohibited, executing or inflicting the Penalties of the same. Notwithstanding which suspension, being in effect a dissolution and abrogating the whole Act, the Income of Three Pence to the Government by the said Act, payable for every Hoghead of Tobacco Exported, is carefully Exacted and Collected.

How Fatal, and of what *Pernicious Consequence*, that Unlimited and Arbitrary pretended *Authority* may be to the Inhabitants, is too apparent, but by considering, That by the same Reason, all the rest of our Laws whereby our Liberty and Property subsists, are subject to the same Arbitrary Disposition, and if timely Remedy be not had, must stand or fall according to his Lordship's Good Will and Pleasure.

Nor is this *Nullifying* and *Suspending Power* the only *Grievance* that doth perplex and burthen us, in relation to Laws; but these Laws that are of a certain and unquestioned acceptation, are executed and countenanced, as they are more or less agreeable to the good liking of our Governours in particular; One very good Law provides, That Orphan Children should be disposed of to Persons of the same Religion with that of their deceased Parents. In *direct opposition* to which, several Children of *Protestants* have been committed to the Tutelage of *Papists*, and brought up in the *Romish Superstition*. We could instance in a Young Woman, that has been lately forced, by Order of Council, from her Husband, committed to the Custody of a *Papist* and brought up in his *Religion*. 'Tis endless to enumerate the particulars of this nature, while on the contrary, those Laws that enhance the Grandeur and Income of his said Lordship are severely Imposed and Executed; especially one that against all Sense, Equity, Reason, and Law, Punishes all Speeches, Practices, and Attempts relating to his Lordship and Government, that shall be thought Mutinous and Seditious by the Judges of the Provincial Court, with either Whipping, Branding, Boreing through the Tongue, Fine, Imprisonment, Banishment, or Death; all, or either of the said Punishments, at the Discretion of the said Judges; who have given a very recent and remarkable Proof of their Authority in each particular Punishment aforesaid, upon several of the good People of this Province, while the rest are in the same danger to have their Words and Actions liable to the Constructions and Punishment of the said Judges, and their Lives and Fortunes to the Mercy of their Arbitrary Fancies, Opinions, and Sentences.