

NOTWITHSTANDING it is said in the Report that the Original Act of 1661 was lost, yet this Assembly in framing the new Tonnage Act very accurately recited it according to the Copy I have given you in the Beginning of this Letter, and tho' they expressly in their Report undertake to declare what was the true Sense of the Law-Makers of the Act of 1661, not only on the Evidence they mentioned, but also on "Perusal of that Act," yet in the new Tonnage Act they set forth that "the old Act being silent for what Use the Imposition had been levied, whereby the true Intent of the said Law hath been hitherto unknown, it had proved a great Dissatisfaction to the People."

HAD the Journals, and the Law not really existed, the Loss could hardly be imputed, with any Colour of Probability, to the Design insinuated: For what Profit, or Advantage could the late Government have proposed by *destroying the Law under which his Lordship claimed the Revenue*, or the Journals which evinced, that it was granted to his Lordship to be applied to his own Use? But, in Fact, the Assertion was rash, for the Journals, and the Law exist to this Day, and I have made Extracts from them to shew on what Motive, or Inducement the Act was framed, and have established the Existence of the Law beyond a Possibility of Doubt.

THE Argument from the Necessity of building Forts for securing Ships in Time of War, and their Majesties Duties at all Times, whatever Weight they expected it to have with their Majesties, their subsequent Conduct, as well as the Situation of the Province cut to Pieces by navigable Rivers, and abounding with Harbours, proves to have been suggested by a most inveterate Spirit of Enmity against his Lordship: For when the Assembly were afterwards in the same Reign called upon to make Provision for the very Purposes they had represented in this Report to be necessary, they declared, and very truly, that the Service would require a larger Sum than the whole Province was worth.

BESIDES that the Terms of the Tonnage Act, and the Journals, shewing the Inducement to the Passage of it, contradicted the Inference the House thought proper to make, in respect of the Arms, and Ammunition, the Fact they set forth in the Preamble of their new Act, "that his Lordship had always received the Tonnage to his own Use, ever since the Year 1661," and the Acts (among other) of 1662, 1664, 1666, 1671, 1674, and 1676, making a Provision for Arms and Ammunition, as well as the very honourable Acknowledgments of his Lordship's Integrity, and Generosity made repeatedly by the Assemblies between the Years 1661, and 1692, prove in the clearest Manner, that an ungovernable Passion to affect his Lordship's Rights, and blemish his Honour was the best Reason the House could have given for the Measures they took. This is further proved by a subsequent Passage in the Report, in which it is intimated, that they thought the great Revenue still allowed his Lordship out of the Province was an Act of Royal Clemency, tho' his Lordship received no other Revenue at that Time, than from his private Estate, of which he could not have been deprived without the most arbitrary, and tyrannical Oppression: For of the Two Shillings per Hoghead his Lordship received only the Moiety, to which he was entitled as a stipulated Compensation for his taking Tobacco at Two-pence per Pound, in Lieu of the Sterling reserved in his Patents.

THE Report also asserted, that "the Settlement of the Province cost his Lordship, and his Father but little," and, to make his Lordship obnoxious to the Crown, "that this Province had been peopled by unpeopling their Majesties Colony of Virginia invited hither, by the Snares of a fertile Soil, and specious Pretences of Liberty of Conscience."

How extremely blinded by Passion, or imposed upon by the Arts and Suggestions of selfish, and designing Men, the Assembly were that gave their Sanction to this most unjust Report, the following Extracts, and Observations will sufficiently manifest.

CÆCILIUS Lord Baltimore, in a Message to the Governor, and Assembly in the Year 1649, after having reminded them, that "by his Concurrence in so many Particulars for the Ease, and Advantage of the People he had given ample Testimony of his sincere Affection, and real Desire to promote their Welfare," and assured them "that upon all Occasions he should take to Heart, and concur with them in all Measures for the Public Good, and apply his Authority at all Times to relieve them from all Oppressions upon Notice, or Complaint, and exhorted them to unite in Affection that, as himself, and they were Members of one Body Politick, so also he, and they might have one Mind in all civil, and temporal Matters, it being a certain and true Maxim that by Concord, and Union a small Colony may grow into a great, and renowned Nation, and that by Discord, and Dissension, great, and glorious Kingdoms, and Commonwealths have declined, and fallen into Nothing, he referred to it as a Fact at that Time notorious, (viz. in the Year 1649) that in the Settlement of the Province he had been at an immense Charge, and had paid full dearly."

In the Preambles to various Acts the Assembly expressed their Gratitude in the fullest Manner to his Lordship for his unwearied Care, and the vast Expences, and Charges he had been at in the Settlement of this Province.