

The Assembly by lessening their salaries, and placing them in such a situation, as might render pecuniary assistance necessary, may seem to have paid a compliment to their integrity, by supposing it out of the reach of any circumstances or situation; but empty compliments are too slender a compensation, to those who devote their time to the public service.

It has been generally alledged that there was not constant employment for the Council, and the diminution of their salaries has been attributed to that cause.

Although a great deal might be said on the impropriety of paying the principal officers of government, in proportion only to the actual labor and drudgery which they have to perform,—I shall content myself with remarking on the inconsistency of retaining this principle, when the encrease of business, had removed the cause on which it was founded—Nor are we to suppose that this argument was entirely overlooked,—a number of members declared in the House, that they thought the salaries ought to be encreased with the business, and this apparent necessity, was made the foundation of objections to the bill which was first brought in to encrease their powers—However, although a great many seemed to entertain the same opinion, they unfortunately had not time to attend to this circumstance, although the bill was otherwise very exactly and minutely drawn, and having spent so much time in more important business, they were too much in a hurry to attend to this.

I cannot omit an observation on the conduct of those gentlemen, who brought in the first bill for enlarging the powers of the Governor and Council as they seemed desirous by their silence on that head to impress a belief that no increase of salary would be necessary—I however kind their intentions may have been, I conceive those gentlemen owed them very little gratitude for such unsubstantial favors—It may be doubtful whether the public will view this subject in the light which I have done, as I am sensible that a person who preaches the necessity of enlarging salaries, will make but few converts.

There is however one circumstance that should not be passed over—It is the inconsistency of allowing salaries to officers of trust and dignity, considerably less than that which is given to the clerk of their board. In the present instance the Counsellors have two hundred pounds, and their clerk two hundred and fifty.