

will. be in some sort my justification. They were Unanimously of Opinion if the Bill
should in their Anarchy be found unexceptionable, or so agreeable, as that I would not reject
it on any other Account. that I ought not to refuse Enacting it into a Law merely because
a small Tax was to be thereby imposed on His L^{ty}s Mannors & demised Lands: His
L^{ty}s Agent, who is still said concerning Liboo last or deficient last Year &
insisted that if regard was to be had to His L^{ty}s pecuniary Interest the Bill should
not be objected to. by some was argued that the Matter in question was not similar to
that which had been the Cause of Contention in Pennsylvania that there was a wide Difference
between a Pound Tax as was proposed in Penn^a & a Land Tax as was about to be laid here;
that the Sensitivants had insisted on the Proprietors personal & real Estate in the
Province being taxed, & that according to its Value estimated by such Persons as the People
should elect: that the contents of His L^{ty}s Mannors & demised Lands were known &
recorded & that therefore no Injustice could be done him by nominal Appraisers or Collectors.
That it was evident the Members of the Lower House being for the most part remote from
Danger would not let the Sins of a few Inhabitants come in competition with their Schemes
& Views, & that if no Concepcion was to be made on either Side, this Province would be as un-
happy & wretched as that where all the Inhabitants should ship their Defence among the Criminals
Majora: that some Ship^{ps} Penns having made the Province & People of Penn^a a present of
£5000 there was room to suspect that Governor Morris had rushed Matters further than was
desired by his Shareholders or perhaps than was agreeable to the Ministry or Parliament: that
in case His L^{ty} was to be entirely excused or exempted from the Tax He would be as it
were obliged to contribute something towards putting his Province in a better posture of Defence
& that it would be inconsistent with his Dignity to offer so little as His proposition of the
Tax would amount to: that no Danger or Injury to His L^{ty} would ensue from the precedent
because if it was by any means thought on illegue or unreasonable let His L^{ty} might for
the future send positive Orders to the contrary, & by vouching the impropriety of it prevent the
Assembly from making a similar proposition or Attempt hereafter. Upon these Considerations &
with the Councils Advice I have continued to sign to the Bill & have herewith transmitted it for His
L^{ty}s Review & Approbation. — I said I did not apprehend any other part of the Bill will
be objected to by His L^{ty}, but really I am at a Loss to guess what Reception a Clause of it
that imposes a double Tax on the Lands of Roman Catholics will meet with at home. At
times I have received such Letters as inclined me to think it would be very disagreeable to
His L^{ty} in the least to strip or abridge them of their Liberties & Privileges, but as I
have lately received a full & positive Instruction, dated the 27th of Oct 1755 directing & requi-
ring me to put several Parts of the Penal Statutes in force against them I think I can never
be blamed for opposing to their Lands being doubly taxed, especially as they are excused
Mastering in the Militia, & as it is no more than is every Year done in England. However
some of the principal of them who have large Tracts of Land look on the Imposition