

any People in an Opinion that the Money is actually collected, contrary to, or at least without
the Sanction of a Law. As it is very obvious what must be the Consequence of their mistake
in such Sentiments I shall not enlarge thereon; but only inclose You a Copy of a Paper which
has been lately handed about here & I am told subscribed by a great Number of the People.
For my own Part I am thoroughly convinced that their Complaints with regard to these Part
iculars are unreasonable & entirely without foundation & that if His L^{ty} had but Resolution
enough to let the Matter be brought to a Hearing before the Council such a Judgment
would be given or Order made as would give His L^{ty} Satisfaction, make the People easy
at the same time make them cautious how they engage in Controversy hereafter. They are
not apprized of all that can be said in Support of His L^{ty}'s Claim, & a Report of a
Committee of a late Lower House of Assembly shews in my Opinion that they would
have very little to advance or urge ag^t him. Upon my mentioning the unhappy Condition
of the Province on Account of these Disputes to Mr Calvert he seemed to give me hopes
that His L^{ty} would be willing to bring them to a Conclusion, but His L^{ty} in His Instruc-
tions peremptorily forbids me to hear any proposal concerning the Appointment of an Agent
for that purpose, however as I foresee that I shall when the Assembly meets again be address'd
on this Subject; I have got an Account or State of the several Revenue Laws (that have been
enacted from time to time) made out & have sent it to Mr Calvert desiring him at least to get an
Opinion thereon for me, which would possibly have Weight with the Assembly & perhaps satisfy
them as to the Collection of the Duties abovementioned. Should Mr Calvert for fear of the Expence
that will attend it, or on any other Account decline or neglect to comply with my Request. Let me
beg the favour of You to peruse the Copy that I herewith send, & if You do not get an
Opinion subscribed by the Attorney or Solicitor Gen^l. I hope You will favour me with Your
own Sentiments thereon. The Account or State might have been much abridged was it
only drawn up for the Opinion of a Lawyer or for the Perusal of Persons of Learning or Judgment
but as it was thought proper to adapt it to the Capacity & Comprehension of every Planter
in the Province its Length or Prolixity was unavoidable, & necessary to prevent its being
suggested that the Quotations were unfair & imperfect, that any material Parts were suppressed
or partial Representations made. As I shall be under a Necessity of making the Assembly
in the winter I should be exceedingly obliged to You for returning it if possible before that
that I may be prepared for a Dispute which seems unavoidable I am &c