

The Perplexity you must be involved in, by not attending to the True Origin of our Constitution, ought to recommend that as much to your Consideration, as the Learning of Land Tax Acts.

All the Power, as we apprehend, that we have, or can exercise, flows from the Charter; and Power when Granted, should be exercised according to the Restrictions and Limitations imposed by the Grantor.

If the Crown could, by the Charter, confer a Power of making Laws, the Crown (it should seem) could restrain or modify it; and what may be done in another Colony, is no Authority for our doing it here, unless our Circumstances and Constitution of Government are similar.

Although we presume Lord *Baltimore* might not, at this Crisis, insist upon what he seems to be so well entitled to, and might rather chuse to wave it now than obstruct his Majesty's Service by strictly adhering to his Charter, yet so far as he is immediately concerned in Point of Property, in the Execution of the Bill you have proposed, he will without Doubt, expect, as in all Reason and Justice he ought, to have the Nomination of such Commissioners as would have any Power to rate his Estate; and upon the same Foundation we expect the same; and without Reserve declare to you, that we never will consent to any Bill to affect our Estates, without having an equal Share with yourselves in the Nomination of Commissioners.

We do not Desire, that the Estates of the People may be Taxed by Officers deriving their Power from the sole Nomination of Lord *Baltimore*, nor by any Officers vested with the Powers given by your Bill: We think that the old Method of Taxing would be attended with the most Ease and Convenience, and the least Expence and Influence; but if you will essay another Method, we shall not object to it, merely because we don't think it the most eligible; however, we can't but observe, That when the Allowances of 15 s. and 14 s. *per Diem* to the Members of the General Assembly are to be paid, we have heard of no Objection to the Propriety, Convenience or Equality of the old Mode of Taxing; and that, in order to avoid a Poll Tax, and essay another Method, so much Time has been spent, as can't but prove detrimental to his Majesty's Service (should this Province at last not be distinguished from every other Colony, by a Refusal to contribute any Thing to forward it) and cost your Constituents (to speak greatly within Compass) at least an Eighth Part of the Sum proposed to be Granted, and that Sum too will be raised by the old Method of Poll Tax. You have bestowed the contemptuous Epithet *Trifling*, upon our Objection to the very scanty Reward you had given to the Commissioners of the Loan-Office: We alledged that the Officers appointed by the Bill ought to have Rewards proportioned to their Services, the Trust reposed in them, and the Trouble attending the Execution of it, and that whether these Services are added to Duties incident to a previous Appointment made by the Government, or constitute the whole Duty of the Officers intended to be originally created by the Bill; and then we shew'd, that these Rules had not been observed.

Our Position you do not seem to deny; on the Contrary, you say, that these Officers ought to be equally Rewarded in Proportion to the Merit of their Services.

Had this Admission not been postponed to the Clause in which (for Want of a better Answer) you have charged us with Unfairness, it might perhaps have prevented it, for it is not easy to conceive how any one, who would admit our Position, could dream of accusing us of Disingenuity, because we enumerated (as you allow) the Services required of the Commissioners, and exactly set down the Reward given them, and then, by comparing their Services and Reward, with the Services and Reward of the Agents, concluded that the Rule we had laid down had not been regarded.

But are pleased to say, that the Commissioners of the Loan-Office under the first Paper Currency Act, receive a Salary of 80 l. *per Annum*; by the 40,000 l. Act they have an Addition of 10 l. *per Annum*, and that they are assisted by a Clerk who has also the same Salary; it is very true they have; and 'tis as true, that they deserve every Farthing of what they are entitled to by the Services they perform under those Laws, and we are apt to think you would be of that Opinion were you in their Situation, how light soever you may make of the Merit of these Gentlemen, who have given a large Security for the due Execution of the Trust reposed in them, and are, by the necessary and troublesome Duties of their Station, obliged to employ so much of their Time in the Service of their Country.

That the Commissioners of the Loan-Office will have more than twice the Trouble in performing the Services required by the Bill that would fall upon the Agents, that the Trust reposed in them is much more considerable and important than that which you place in the Agents, and that the Reward to each Agent is above Thirty-three Times greater (allowing the same Sum to the Agents for employing a Clerk that you do to the Clerk of the Commissioners for his Trouble under this Bill) than that which is given by the Bill to each of the Commissioners, you must admit; wherefore it appears to us, that your Partiality is not to be palliated, and our Objection remains unanswered.

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