

Lib. C. B. and be so much their own friends as to use all means in their Power to avert the Calamities with which their Country is threatened.

To the making an effectual Regulation to this purpose, there is One great Obstacle of which Every Body is sensible, and that is, the specifick Payments in Tobacco, which by the present Laws the People are obliged to make, to the Clergy, Officers and Lawyers (which it would be difficult, if not impracticable to alter for Want of money) which Obstacle if in some measure removed, would go a great way towards reconciling the People & their Representatives to the necessary means of their own happiness, and such a legal Regulation of Our Staple, as would put it upon an Equality with that of Our Neighbours, would in all human Probability have the desired Effect, and be equally advantageous to your Lordship and your Tenants: The only Expedient We can think of, or believe practicable is, the retrenching the Tobacco Payments, into which We believe that even the Clergy themselves would voluntarily come, notwithstanding the Establishment in their favour; and should the Officers or Practitioners of the Law be less forward to contribute to the publick Good, than Others, it would render them odious to all Mankind, and occasion the Calamities of the Country to be imputed to them, nor would the Odium stop there: As to such of Our selves as are intitled either by the Offices We hold, or Our Profession, to Tobacco fees; We beg leave to assure your Lordship, that we would most readily and chearfully, was it necessary, sacrifice Part of Our Income to the Welfare of Our Country: but in the present Case We believe that We should be Gainers if a proper Regulation was to take Place, as the Value of what We should then receive would (in all Probability) exceed what we can now hope for.

p. 211

The Advantages, which We are firmly perswaded Your Lordship would certainly derive from such a Regulation as We have been mentioning (besides the Pleasure resulting from a sense of the happiness of your people) are plain and manifest, as it would invite new Comers into the Province in great Numbers and increase the Demand for the back uncultivated Lands, as well as enable the present Inhabitants to enlarge their Possessions & pay their Rents.

We consider the Right your Lordship has in regulating and ascertaining Officers fees, and the Offices themselves as part of your Estate and Inheritance, and therefore would avoid doing anything which might have the least Appearance of incroaching on your Rights, in this or any other particular

It is therefore that We trouble your Lordship with this true state of the Condition and Staple of Our Country, not in the