

studiously calculated and industriously exhibited to promote Discontent, and encourage expensive Litigation.

U. H. J.
Liber No. 36
Nov. 26

You thought the Regulation of Officers Fees ought, in the first place, to have been settled, not because it first occurred in the Bill, but for other Reasons assigned in your last Paper of which we no more Perceive the Force than we are able to guess at the Event which has approved them. We have not declined the Consideration of this Topick, nor has any Time been lost by the Arrangement of our Propositions. You have been constrained to admit that we have imparted our Reasons, tho you think it useless to examine them minutely; but is such Conduct Consistent with the Purpose of a Conference as would naturally be pursued by the very Opponents of the Measure? We at once declared, that we would not agree to a Reduction of the Fees, legally chargeable under the Old Table beyond that very considerable one in the Election given to all Persons to Pay in Money or Tobacco; if a further Reduction than this was your Aim why did you not at once avow it and terminate the Conference at least with Civility? We have over and again offered to concert with you the proper Means for preventing every Abuse committed under the Old Table; but we are not bound to admit every thing to be what you chuse to call it. You have not informed us in what Instances the Demands of the Surveyors and Examiner have been Extravagant nor pointed out the Abuses they have actually Committed. We are not acquainted with their Abuses; We must understand the Subject, and have a fair Opportunity of judging upon it before we bind ourselves by Concessions. The Matters you have represented to be Abuses in the Commissaries Office, are the Orders and Charges on Administrations & granted by the Deputies. You asserted that "there is an additional Order in this Office to almost every Act done therein, when the Old Table made the Allowance only in Testamentary Causes and in Order to correct this supposed Abuse, the new Table allows only in the single Instance of entering every Motion in Court, and Order thereon Five Pounds of Tobacco." Must not such an Alteration very much diminish the Fees of the Commissary General, when there can be no pretence that it is necessary to prevent Abuse, since "besides" the Allowance for Orders in Testamentary Causes the only Allowance you have acknowledged the Old Table most expressly gives a Fee for Orders in four other Instances, exclusive of the general Article. Can this be directly denied to be an attempt to reduce under the pretence of correcting Abuses?

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As to the double Charge as you call it, we may add to what we have already advanced, that it is not only Consistent with constant usage; but has been admitted to be regular in the various Instances both at Law and in Equity, of Allowances made to Executors and Administrators for their Charges, and Disbursements. You have