

Confidence which they claim, and a Compliance with their earnest Desires, that I must beg to be excused, if, for the future, I shall chuse to see the Bottom of every Representation against any Man, whether Officer or Not, with my own Eyes; since I find so little Reliance is to be had on their Firmness and Candour.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Dec. 16

And now, to conclude this Message, so far as it relates to the Naval-Officers; since I find no Breach of Duty in those Officers; since Impost-Bonds, which are the established Security to the Public for all Country Duties, are taken payable to the Proprietor, and by which these Duties are secured in the regular and usual Way, and since, as I am told, those Securities are still good (tho' how soon they may fail cannot be foreseen) I shall, upon your Request, order those Bonds to be put in Suit, against the original Debtors to the Public, to recover those Duties, if you think them payable, as you seem to do, by your desiring the Naval-Officers Bonds to be sued: But if nothing less than Suits upon those Officers Bonds will content you, I must beg to be excused; and if, when I find such a Spirit prevailing, as seems to have Governed the last Lower House, I should afford any one endangered by it, a Protection from Injustice and Oppression (as I think even the Trouble of attending Suits on those Bonds, and the Loss of the Costs to those Officers, tho' they should end in Non-suits, would be) I should hope you would think I was only acting agreeable to the Duties of my Station.

I come now to the second Head of your Address, relating to the Commissioners of the Currency Office, wherein you express your Concern to find, that no legal Steps have yet been taken to compel those Commissioners to Credit the Public with those Monies paid so many Years ago into that Office by Trippe, Porter, and Bradford: You'll be pleased to observe, Gentlemen, that the first Address upon this Subject to me was in the last Session; to which I then gave you for Answer (amongst other Things) That Col. Hammond, who was the only surviving Commissioner who could be affected by those Judgments, obtained long before my Arrival in this Province, had told me, that as he could make it appear the Money in Question never was paid into the Office, he had appealed from those Judgments; and I can venture to assure you, that a Writ of Error is now depending for their Reversal, wherein should he not succeed, I have Reason to believe, he will, without further Trouble, pay the Money; by which Means the Country may receive it as soon as upon a Suit commenced on his Bonds. I presume that the particular Behaviour of the Jury in those Cases, (which I am told gave no small Disgust to many sensible By-Standers): And the Matters having been dormant so many Years, may have given him Reason to conclude, that this Affair would never have been stirred against him, notwithstanding those Judgments, because as soon as that Address of last Session came to my Hands, he declared he would endeavour to Reverse

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