

to the arrangements under which the Duties had been retained and paid to the Custom-House Officers; but expressed a willingness, by an Act of the Assembly, to grant to His Majesty, out of the Duties of Customs, a sufficient sum to defray the just and reasonable expense of that Department; and suggested their desire, that the Salaries might be proportioned to the limited Provincial Revenue, and to the allowances of our own Officers: and also that the Officers of the Customs should account for these Duties to the Legislature.

This Address was forwarded by His Excellency the late Governor; but remaining unanswered at the last Session, this House decided for the present not to adopt any measures for altering the system of Revenue, but declared *that the House held the Officers of the Customs personally responsible for the sums retained and applied, in payment of the Salaries and Expenses of the Department.*

After this detail, necessarily protracted, of the nature, effect and operation of the Imperial Statutes—the Committee trust that the Message received, during the present Session, from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, will be more readily understood. It conveys the *result* of the deliberations of the Lords of the Treasury, upon the various representations from the Colonies on the subject of the Customs—and being intended to apply to all of them does not, on that account perhaps, answer explicitly the Addresses from this Legislature: although the Committee feel that it would have been more desirable that, as formerly, a Copy of the Treasury Minute had been communicated to the House, rather than an abstract of its contents. It appears then, in this Message to be distinctly avowed, that, “*it was no part of their Lordships intention, nor is it proposed, that, in consequence of the abolition of Fees, a larger charge for Officers Salaries should be imposed on the Colony,*” and on this principle their Lordships require, that as *Relief* to the Colonies should not create an additional and unreasonable burthen on the *Revenue in England.* *The Colonies should either acquiesce in the deduction, from the Duties, of the adequate Salaries*