

The late Speaker of your honourable House, Mr. Norris, who has, I suppose, all my letters to him, and Copies of his own to me, relating to that Transaction, can testify with how much Integrity and Clearness I managed the whole Affair.—All the House were sensible of it, being from time to time fully acquainted with the Facts. If I had gone to Gaming in the Stocks with the Public Money, and through my fault a Sum was lost, as your Protest would insinuate, why was I not censured and punished for it when I returned? You, honourable Sir (my Enemy of seven Years standing) was then in the House. You were appointed on the Committee for my Accounts; you reported that you found them just, and signed that Report*. I never solicited the employ of Agent: I made no Bargain for my future Service, when I was ordered to England by the Assembly; nor did they vote me any Salary. I lived there near six Years at my own expence, and I made no Charge or Demand when I came home. You, Sir, of all others, was the very Member that proposed (for the Honour and Justice of the House) a Compensation to be made me of the *Five Thousand Pounds* you mention. Was it with an intent to reproach me thus publicly for accepting it? I thanked the House for it then, and I thank you now for proposing it: Tho' you, who have lived in *England*, can easily conceive, that besides the Prejudice to my private Affairs by my Absence, a *Thousand Pounds* more would not have reimburs'd me. The money voted was immediately paid me. But, if I had occasioned the Loss of *Six Thousand Pounds* to the Province, here was a fair opportunity of securing easily the greatest Part of it; why was not the *Five Thousand Pounds* deducted, and the Remainder called for:—The Reason is, This Accusation was not then invented.—Permit me to add, that supposing the whole *Eleven Thousand Pounds* an expence occasioned by my Voyage to *England*, yet the Taxation of the Proprietary estate now established, will, when valued by Years Purchase be found in time an Advantage to the Public, far exceeding that Expence. And if the Expence is at present a Burthen, the Odium ought to lie on those who, by their Injustice, made the Voyage necessary, and not on me, who only submitted to the Orders of the House in undertaking it.

I am now to take Leave (perhaps a last

Leave) of the Country I love, and in which I have spent the greatest Part of my Life.—*Esto Perpetua*.—I wish every kind of Prosperity to my Friends,—and I forgive my Enemies.

* Report of the Committee on Benjamin Franklin's Accounts.

In Obedience to the Order of the House, we have examined the Accounts of Benjamin Franklin Esq; with the Vouchers to us produced in Support thereof, and do find the same Account to be just, and that he has expended, in the immediate Service of this Province, the Sum of *Seven Hundred and Fourteen Pounds, Ten Shillings and Seven pence*, out of the Sum of *Fifteen Hundred Pounds* Sterling, to him remitted and paid, exclusive of any Allowance or Charge for his Support and Services for the Province.

John Morton,

William Allen,

John Ross,

John Moor,

Joseph Fox,

John Hughes,

Samuel Rhoads,

John Wilkinson,

Isaac Pearson.

The House taking the foregoing Report of the Committee of accounts into Consideration, and having spent some time therein,

Resolved,

That the Sum of *Five Hundred Pounds* Sterl. per Annum be allowed and given to Benjamin Franklin Esq; late Agent for the Province of *Pensylvania* at the Court of *Great-Britain*, during his Absence of six Years from his Business and Connections, in the Service of the Public; and that the Thanks of this House be also given to the said Gentleman by Mr. Speaker, from the Chair, as well for the faithful Discharge of his Duty to this Province in particular, as for the many and important Services done *America* in general, during his Residence in *Great-Britain*.

Thursday, March 31, 1763.

Pursuant to a Resolve of the Nineteenth of last Month, that the Thanks of this House be given to Benjamin Franklin, Esq; for his many Services not only to the Province of *Pennsylvania* but to *America* in general, during his late Agency at the Court of *Great-Britain*, the same were this Day accordingly given in Form from the Chair.—To which Mr. Franklin, respectfully addressing himself to the Speaker, made Answer, That he was thankful to the House,