

U. H.
Journal
1659-69

That the writt was directed to the Sherriffe to make proclamacōn for the Eleccōn of Burgesses is that when the Freemen had mett itt was in their power to elect Burgesses any persons quallified for the Employment that was not disabled by Cryme then already Committed that the number of persons to be Elected was in the expresse words left to the Sherriffe, but only soe as he did represent the body Aggregative of the County and the only person to whome the lawe directs the Writts for Summoning Assemblyes Soe that vpon the whole matter it was in the Sherriffes power to restrayne only persons disabled by lawe to elect or be elected and the determinacōn of the number and of the persons to be Elected in the Freemen of the County and this wee thought fitt to certefye

Signed by the order of the Governor and Councill

John Gittings Clrk.

Ordered that M^r Bateman and M^r Lloyd doe goe [to] the lower howse with the two peticōns yesterd[ay] referred to the Lower howse their Consideracōn together with three coppys of Acts of Assembly yett in force with the Answere of the Governor and Councill touching the writts of Eleccōn of Burgesses

The Vpper howse Adjourned till three of the Clock in the Afternoone.

The howse again mett p^rsent as before

Vpon Receipt of a message sent by the lower howse to the Governor &c in theis words

The Burgesses humbly desire that an Acte be passed with
p. 84 Consent of both howses of Assembly that Members or Burgesses of Assembly now attending and ever hereafter haue free liberty of speeche in deliuering their opinion and Censures without p^rjudice either of themselves their persons or Estates to any bill propounded or what shall be propounded by them for the Good and liberty of the Inhabitants

William Bretton Clk

Whereupon the Vpper howse sent to them for a Conference, whereupon the Speaker and the whole howse comeing into the upper howse the Governo^r assured them that they might haue all liberty of Speech and that there was noe necessity of making such an Acte as was desired and that they should haue as much liberty as any Burgesses had or haue in the Parliam^t of England or Magna Charta did afforde them in England with which the rest were satisfied and waved the request for the Acte

The Vpper howse have Adjourned till tomorrowe tenn of the Clock in the morn.