

Original M^r W^m Harris M^r Elisha Hall & M^r Walter Smith appoint'd
Journal. a Committee of Agreivances & went out to Consult thereof

By the house of Delegates Iune the 30th 1699.

Takeing againe into Consideration the Cobby of some of his Maj^{ty}s Instructions Laid before vs wee find some paragraphs having Relation to the Assembly and Inhabitants of this Province pticularly the ninth wherein his Ex^{cy} is Instructed to Cause a Survey to be made of the most Considerable Landings places and harbours &c To Erect fortifications &c not doubting of the Cheerfull Compliance of the Inhabitants.

p. 14 To which wee humbly answer that this Province from one Side to the other being soe Luxuriant in Navigable Rivers & Creeks and Those Rivers & Creeks having soe many Branches Navigable and soe many Capacious harbours and faire Landings the province being Generally Lowe Levell Land next the Water & noe Rocks or Barrs to prohibitt Landings the Trade of the Province and Shipping disperssing it Self soe Equally & Generally all over the Province by the Convenience of those Creeks Rivers & harbours that it does not seem to vs a thing practicable to Erect any such fortifications nor to restraine Shipping from there vsuall places of Trade and Confine them to any particular harbour & wee are Confident that if their L^{dps} the Lords Com^{rs} of Trade and Plantations did visibly Know this Province they would Concurr wth us and further adjudge that all the Revenues of this Province were insignificant to the Erecting of such Durable ffortifications as would Deffend themselves & would be any considerable security to Shipping in any Case.

And whereas it is required that a Competent Maintenance be assigned to Ministers of Each Church and Convenient houses &c.

We humbly Conceive that wee have allready made such a Competent Maintenance as is proportionable to the Countrys Capacity but where as the dayly Growth and Increase of this Infant Country may Like enough in a few years cause an alteration of Parishes & for the few Ministers comeing here bring familys nor would an house alone wthout Land and a plantation or Glebe be any Considerable vse to the Minister therefore wee Desire to be Excused from any further p^rsent Charge yet we will be allwayes ready to provide for the Cleargye by assigning them Land or other waise as the wealth or Strength of the Province Increases if they themselves be neglect of their Duty (having now to Look into their Conversations) be not there owne hendrance & by their Couldness Stiffen our Zeale