

best of these Laws, such as he thought fit, null and voyd by Proclamacōn: Notwithstanding they were assented to in his Lordships name, by the Governor in his absence, and he himselfe some time personally acted and governed by the same, soe that the question in our Courts of Judicature, in any point that relates to many of our Laws, is not so much the relacōn it has to the said Laws, but whether the Laws themselves be agreable to the pleasure and approbacōn of his Lordshipp. Whereby our liberty and property is become uncertain and under the arbitrary disposition of the Judge and Commissioners of our Courts of Justice.

P. R. O.  
Colonial  
Papers.

The said Assembly being some time after dissolved by proclamacōn another was elected and mett consisting only of two members for each County, directly opposite to an Act of Assembly for four (in which severall laws with his Lordships personal assent were enacted, among the which one for the Encouragement of Trade and erecting of Towns, but the Execucōn of that Act was soon after by Proclamacōn from his Lordshipp out of England suspended the last year, and all officers Military and Civil severely prohibited executing and inflicting the penaltys of the same. Notwithstanding which suspension being in effect a dissolution and abrogateing of the whole Act, the income of three pence per hoggshead to the government (by the said Act payable for every hoggshead of tobacco exported is carefully exacted & collected. How fatall and of what pernicious consequence that unlimited and arbitrary pretended authority may be to the Inhabitants, is too apparent, but by considering that by the same reason all the use of the laws whereby our liberties and properties subsiste are subject to the same arbitrary disposition, and if timely remedy be not had must stand or fall according to his Lordships good will and pleasure.

Nor is this nullyfyeing and suspending power the only grievance that doth perplex and burthen us in relacōn to Laws, but these laws that are of a certain and unquestioned acceptacōn are executed and countenanced, as they are more or less agreable to the good liking of our Gov<sup>r</sup> in particular, one very good lawe provides that orphan children should be disposed of to persons of the same religion with that of their dead parents. In direct opposition to which several children of protestants have been committed to the tutlage of papists, and brought up in the Romish Superstition. Wee could instance in a young woman that has been lately forced by order of Council from her husband committed to the custody of a papist, and brought up in his religion.

Tis endless to enumerate the particulars of this nature, while on the contrary those laws that enhance the grandeur