

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

other course to have it done but afterwards I finding most people of our County and being informed it was so generally through the Countrey that all people except such as had beene in armes or abettors to their cause was willing to remaine as they were untill their Majesty's pleasure should be knowne and I conceiving that my consenting to choose delegates and representatives to sitt in such Assembly and they countenancing the thing that was done although they were awed to it would make me guilty as well as they that did it, therefore I resolved not to choose nor consent that any should be chose however being modest forebore rayeing or speaking grosly of what was done and when the time apoynted was come for the Election Coll: Jowles and divers of his souldiers being at the place and I also and divers of the better sort of the people of our County, discourse arose about choosing representatives and I and many others being much the greater number argued against choosing any, amongst which discourse Coll: Jowles threatened that if we would not choose representatives freely he would fetch them downe with the long sword and withall required the deputy Clerke to read some papers that he had Whereupon I askt Coll: Jowles whether those papers were their Majestys authority and if they were I would read them mysele if not they should not be read, but he still bid the Clerke read them Whereupon I said to him and the rest of the Company Gentlemen if the Lord Proprietary have any authority heere I command you speakeing to the Clerke in the name of the Lord Proprietary to read no papers heere Whereupon Coll: Jowles went away in great rage saying he would choose none yett after^{ds} having got some of his souldiers in drinke hee and they did some what which they called a free choyce and I and many more of the better sort of the people sett our hands to a paper wrighting that exprest modestly and loyally some reasons why wee were not willing to choose any representatives to sitt in that intended Assembly for which doing I was fetched from my house on Sunday the 25th of August 1689. by James Bigger and six other armed men by order of the persons assembled at the command of Coade and his accomplices and kept close prisoner at the house of Philip Lynes under a guard of armed men and upon the 3^d day of September carryed by a Company of souldiers before the said Assembly where Coade accused me of rebellion against their Majestys King William and Queen Mary for acting as above written and withall told me if I would submit to a tryal they would assigne me Council whereto I answered them that I was a free borne and loyall subject to their Majestyes of England and therefore expected the benefitt of all those laws of England that were made for