

former Period. If His Ldp & you will only consider what Lengths the Violence of Assemblies has carried them during former Wars & particularly when M^r Ogle & M^r Bladen were successively Governors I think you will not be surprized at the Part which the Lower House of Assembly has acted since the year 1754 but rather wonder how they have been foiled so much as they have been for I think I may without Vanity say that as often as they have thought fit to attack me from the time they begun with the Roman Catholick Affair I have vindicated my own Conduct; & am of Opinion that the Iniquity & Unreasonableness of their Proceedings have been also exposed by many of the Messages which were sent to them from the Upper House. This being according to my Notion a true Representation of Things, being not conscious of having taken any Steps since I have been honoured with His Ldp's Commission which I am ashamed of or unable to justify, I am scarcely sorry for what has passed being satisfied that Peace with the Assembly could not have been purchased or obtained in such a Situation of Affairs unless I had forfeited my Integrity, & His Ldp's Property together with the Rights of Govern^t p. 120 been made a Sacrifice. Having given you my Sentiments on the Plan or Scheme which you were pleased to recommend to my Perusal & told you how far I think it would be advisable to pursue it & in what respects it would on Trial be found impracticable I shall proceed to consider what you say concerning the Justices of the Provincial Court & to make a few Remarks on that Part of Your Letter. That the Gentlemen who sit as Judges on the Provincial Bench are not such as would make a Figure in Westminster Hall is most certain yet I cannot think they are Men remarkably deficient in Point of Abilities or Understanding, nor do I believe they are disaffected to the Ld Proprietary or his Government. Most of them were appointed long before I came to the Province & as no Complaint was ever made to me concerning their Misbehaviour on the Bench or Partiality on any Occasion I never conceived myself at Liberty to remove them, being forbid as you know by the 37th Article of my Instructions to remove or displace any without sufficient & good Cause. Was it possible to get any Gentlemen who have made the Law their particular Study to act as Provincial Magistrates doubtless it would be right to supersede all that are at present on the Bench & I think none of them could then take such a Step amiss, but as this is by no means the Case No Person in the Province having applied himself to that Study but with a View to practice at the Bar, by which they generally amass considerable Fortunes I presume there is not one among them of any Note that would decline & relinquish his Business for less

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