

manner as was that Copy which I transmitted in the Year 1755 for the Council Office would be attended with a very heavy Expence, of which it is evident (by their having refused to reimburse me what I paid for the abovementioned Copy) that the Assembly would not defray the least Share, nor do I believe they will ever contribute a Shilling towards an Edition of our Laws unless the Editor will leave out the Tunnage Law & the Act made in 1704 for the Support of Government. Had not such Obstacles as these prevented it a Sum of Money would ee'r this time have been granted to encourage the Rev^d M^r Bacon to send a Copy of all the Acts of Assembly now in force (which he has collected & compared with the Records) to the Press; but as the Expence of Paper, of printing, correcting the Press, & of binding them would be very considerable, perhaps £400 Stg a Sum much larger than he is able to advance, all his Labour & pains will I fear be lost & the Province long remain without a good Edition of our Laws, tho the Want thereof is extreemly obvious & much lamented. It is now two or three years since M^r Bacon published Proposals inviting people to subscribe at the Rate of Forty Shillings Currency for each Book or printed Copy & promising to send his Collection or Written Copy to the Press as soon as a sufficient Sum to defray the Expence of Printing should be subscribed, but the people in this Province being averse to Subscriptions, his proposals met with a cool Reception tho I cannot but be of opinion, that if the Acts of Assembly were once published agreeable to M^r Bacons plan many more Copies might be sold in the Province than would defray all Expences attending the Publication, & therefore that M^r Bacon might be enabled to proceed I would readily advance him £40 or £50 if other Gentlemen would come into the proposal & advance largely likewise to be repaid again in case more than 330 Copies which I suppose will clear all Costs shall be disposed of; otherwise Let the Subscribers suffer Loss in proportion to the Sums which they may respectively subscribe, so M^r Bacon will depend entirely upon an extraordinary or good Sale for his Reward or Recompence. Not doubting but His Ldp would be forward to promote so useful a Work I shall be glad if You will communicate to him my proposal & if he approves thereof, permit me to hope that You likewise will contribute to its being carried into Execution, or should any other Scheme be by His Ldp or you thought more eligible Be pleased to advise me. I am with g^t Regard &c.

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