

Lib. R. R. R. in the Execution of his office, or concerning the same, or have committed any thing to the p^rjudice of the governm^t wherewith he can be charged, he humbly conceives it ought to be in due forme of Law, and not by any proceedings against him here, by which he thinks he ought not to be concluded.

To which is answered, that this board denyes any intendment of concludeing him by their proceedings now, but onely fairely and moderately in the p^rsence of the Kings Surv^r to argue and debate the matter in hand, in ord^r to cleare themselves, before his Maj^{ty} and all persons of the imputations charged on them by the s^d Blackiston in his s^d Letter

He desires to be proceeded against in due method and forme, and to have convenient time allowed him to make his answer, and that if he shall have occasion to make use of any Evidences he may have their Hono^{rs} assistance by their ord^r to some of his L^{sp}s Justices of the peace, for the takeing of such Depositions as he shall produce in his behalf; and that he may not be circumscribed as to time and place, but may have liberty to make his Defence at any time before he depart this Province, or some time this Season of Shipping.

The Board ord^{rs} that he may have cobby of the said Lett^r (if delivered) but first they desire him, to answer whither or noe he owne any such Lett^r by him written, according to the cobby now read.

He refuses positively to answer thereto, but craves cobby thereof and then will in convenient time putt in his Responses, and hopes they will proceed against him in due forme according to law otherwise such proceedings as these will but afford new matter of complaint

M^r George Layfield the Kings Comptroller and Surv^r Gen^{ll} is desired by the board to take cognizance, that they will ord^r the said Blackiston to have cobby of his Lett^r and give him convenient time to answer, and if then he refuse or delay to make his defence, it will wholly rest at his doore, and be noe waies imputeable to this Governm^t who are now and alwaies ready to vindicate and cleare themselves of all the calumnies and aspersions throwne upon them, and will assist the s^d Blackiston what they can in takeing such Depositions and Evidences as he shall produce in his defence.

The said Comptroller declares himself well Satisfied with the Integrity of this Government and their readiness to cleare & vindicate themselves from what hath been imputed to them, and acknowledges all ready and willing compliance from them, in assisting him upon all occasions in the execution of his Office, for his Maj^{ties} service and Interest here.

The said M^r Blackiston further saith, that he desires to have cobby of what hath been read to him, and wherewith he is