

Relating to the Sailing of the Shipping now within this Province do Agree and concurr with all the reasons laid down therein and do say that they do believe that the great Rains that lately have been, have occasioned at least a Months loss of time, Secondly Wee say that it will conduce much to his Ma<sup>ts</sup> Service and the Advantage of all his Subjects concern'd that the Commandore stay untill the last of June, by which time Wee reasonably conjecture all the f fleet may be ready at Kiquotan to Attend & waite the Motion of the Comāndore.

Original  
Journal.

Signed p Ord<sup>r</sup> W Bladen Clk Assembly

The hon<sup>ble</sup> John Courts and James Frisby Esq<sup>rs</sup> (upon some Urgent occasions calling them) crave leave of his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> and the Board to Retire home which was granted them.

May 17<sup>th</sup> 1695.

Councill again Sate and were Present as before Except M<sup>r</sup> Courts and M<sup>r</sup> Frisby.

Presented unto his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> by Severall Persons, called Quakers a Peticon by way of Address, Wherein among severall Articles therein laid down they do say that they are rendered incapable to serve the King or their Countrey being vnder Scruple of Conscience and Cannot swear so that if they see a felonious Act committed or hear any seditious Words Spoken, they cannot without great danger to themselves discover the same because they cannot give such formall Testimony as the Law requires, and so the parties Escape for want of such testimony and actions brought against them for slander or defamation perhaps for their paines: Whereupon his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> demanded if they did not think they were Obliged to discover such Matters, being Made privy to them Who make Answer they do hold themselves Obliged. In another Article they say they have not afforded them the birth Right of an English Man; To which his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> demands if they did not Receive in this Province Right and Priviledge equall with their Bretheren in England Who confess they do, but they Expected some other priviledges haveing been at great charge & Expences in the helping to serve this Governm<sup>t</sup> Ordered that the s<sup>d</sup> peticon be Referred to the consideration of the house of Burgesses and was sent down by the hon<sup>ble</sup> Col John Addison & Thomas

To which the following Answer was sent. Viz<sup>t</sup>

By the house of Burgesses May 17<sup>th</sup> 1695.

As to the first part of this Petition, Viz<sup>t</sup> the dispensing with taking the Oathes, tis the Opinion of this house, that it is