

M^r Cheseldyn M^r Sollicitor General M^r Clark M^r Watkins M^r Boothby and M^r Helmsley to whom his Excellency was pleased to say that the occasion of his sending for them at this time was about a Person whom he understood was made Choice of to be a member of the House of Burgesses that was Ordained a Priest and therefore demanded their opinion whether he could be admitted to sitt as a member of the House of Burgesses telling them an Example of England in that case and another of this Province that have denied Clergymen that Priviledge and the question is further put whether a Priest can dispriest himself

The said Questions being seperately answered by the said Gentlemen who are also of opinion that no Person in holy Orders is qualified by Law to sit in the house of Commons and so by consequence not in the House of Burgesses here and that it is an indeleble Character stamped upon them which cannot be taken of but by the Ordinary or Power by which the same was Conferred.

His Excellency after the Lawyers were withdrawn was pleased to demand of the Board whether they know of any thing further to be considered or proper to be done in this matter who say they do not it is therefore Ordered that a Copy of the said proposalls and opinions be drawn forth against the morning to be laid before the House for their consideration

September 19th 1696.

The Council again sate and were Present as yesterday

The foregoing Proposals and Lawyers opinions being pursuant to Order prepared were sent down to the House by Col^o Robotham and Col^o Greenberry. The messengers return and say they could not deliver their message by reason the House was adjourned

Monday September the 21st 1696 The Council again sate and were Present as on Saturday except Col^o Greenberry

The messengers on Saturday sent with the last message are Ordered to carry the same down now who return and say they delivered the same

Brought from the House of Burgesses by M^r Hutchins and Major Smallwood the following message viz^t

By the House of Burgesses September the 21st 1696

This House having carefully and maturely considered the last message and Objection made against the qualification of