

By his Ex<sup>cy</sup> the Gov<sup>r</sup> and Councill in Assembly  
March 18<sup>th</sup> 1701/2

Original  
Journal.

Herewith is sent you the R<sup>t</sup> Honble the Lords Com<sup>rs</sup> of Trade & plant<sup>a</sup> Lre: to his Ex<sup>cy</sup> the Gov<sup>r</sup> of the 22<sup>d</sup> of July last requireing his Ex<sup>cy</sup> to gett the best informacōn he cann relateing to the Conduct of the proprietary Gov<sup>rs</sup> and Governm<sup>t</sup> upon the Severall heads of observations in the said Lre: enclosed and upon such other heads as may be proper to give a true light into the State of the plantacōns more especially in relation to this province while it was under Governours appointed by the proprietor.

And also as to Pennsylvania and the Iersey's which are the nearest to this province, and thereupon you are desired in Compliance to the s<sup>d</sup> Lre: from their Lordsp<sup>s</sup> to represent what you know or have heard either in respect to this province whilst under proprietary Govern<sup>ts</sup> or otherwise of Pensilvania and the Jersey's according to their Lordsp<sup>s</sup> desire, and inas-much as it hath been offered at this board that some Gen<sup>t</sup> of knowne probity now in your house have reported th<sup>t</sup> they were Sencible the 14<sup>d</sup> p tonn formerly and yett taken by and paid to the Lord Baltemore as porte Dutys was intended & given for the maintainance of Forts and Defence of the province and was originally stated and called Forte Dutys' and not porte Duty's but by some Sinister means contrary to the intent of the Assembly that gave it it was altered and changed into porte Duty's

Therefore wee Desire you will enquire into this matter and endeavour to gett the best informacōn and Satisfacōn you cann therein the said Revenue of 14<sup>d</sup> p Tonn being now of great emolument and in case it be made appeare to be mis-applied that is contrary to the intent it was raised for, proper means may be used to regaine that disadvantage to the province.

Signed p order. W Bladen Clk Councill.

Which said Message being read, It is resolved it be againe read in a full house.

The house adjournes for an howre

Post Merid: The house mett againe and being called over.

Were present as in the morning only M<sup>r</sup> Vanderhayden absent being sick.

The Message by Coh<sup>o</sup> John Hammond and Coll<sup>o</sup> Edward Loyd againe read. And the Lords Com<sup>r</sup> Lre: and observations mentioned in the same were here likewise read.

Which observations here followes, viz :