

L. H. J. to repair to their own House, and there seriously to reflect thereon.

The House being returned M^r Speaker took the Chair and the House proceeded to take the same into their Consideration and being debated. Resolved the following Message be sent to his Excellency Viz.

By the House of Delegates October 4th 1708

In Answer to your Excellency's Speech to the House this Day in Relation to the Charter which your Excellency was pleased to grant to the Citizens of Annapolis this House have taken into Consideration what we have done upon Complaint of several of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of Annapolis who conceive themselves under some Hardships by the said Charter lately granted by your Excellency to some Gentlemen to incorporate them into a Body Politick or Fraternity by the Name of Mayor Recorder Aldermen and Common Council of the said City this House being in Concurrence with your Excellency and the Honble Council the proper Center to which all agrieved may apply themselves for Redress doth humbly conceive that the Charter granted doth deprive some of her Majesty's Subjects of the Rights and Privileges which the Laws of England and this Province undoubtedly entitles them to as Freemen as particularly their voting for Delegates or Representatives in the General Assembly and make them liable to be sued for small Debts which the Laws of this Province impowers any single Justice to hear and determine, and taken from the Public those Lands & Buildings they purchased and erected and other Privileges.

P. 333 We do humbly beg Leave to shew that it's not out of any Disrespect to your Excellency or any Desire to lessen the Prerogative of the Crown or the Powers her Majesty has invested y^r Excellency with, but observing it is not to be plainly exprest is your Excellency's Commission we conceive it to be our Duty (on Behalf of those we represent) to beg Leave that your Excellency will have so much Regard to the Opinion of this House as to leave the granting of Charters undetermined until her Majesty's Pleasure therein be further known, and when your Excellency shall have it more plainly exprest we shall readily concur with granting of a Charter provided all the Inhabitants and freeholders of Annapolis request the same and have their equal Privileges in choosing their Representatives and all other Privileges which by the Laws they are entitled to; and that the Privileges granted be according to the Laws of England and this Province and that the publick Lands