

Col Walter Smith & Eleven other members bring from the ^{U. H. J.} House their answer to his Excell Speech, at the opening of this Session Viz.

By the House of Delegates Dec^r 2^d 1708

May it please your Excell.

This House has Considered your Excell^s Speech to us at the opening of this Session & return your Excell our hearty Thanks for your good Governm^t & noble Endeavours to serve this Province as well for her Majesty's Service as the Welfare of the same & doubt not your Excell^s sincerity therein, We assure your Excell that this House will Endeavour the same and ^{p. 563} if we find any evil minded or malicious Members amongst us we are & shall be always ready to detect & Censure them as being not Persons fitted with Qualifications to Sitt amongst us

We are heartily sorry your Excell should be informed or apprehend that any Person the last meeting appeared in this House to debauch any of her Majesty's well meaning Subjects to raise any Animosities or unnecessary Heats, If any such we are altogether unsensible of them but if any private or particular person should be tardy in such matters this House does assure your Excell that they will do their utmost Endeavours to prevent them

And as for those Paragraphs of your Excell^s Speech relating to the publick Interest this House unanimously agree to Concur with you in what good Laws are recommended for the Good & Benefitt of her Majesty's Subjects here And all other Things by your Excell recommended we will take into Consideration and Debate and will Consent to anything further that in our Judgement shall be for her Majesty's honour and Service and for the good of her Subjects here

Your Excellencys good Governm^t over us we acknowledge discreet as well for her Majesty's Service as the Good of this Province, And having found ourselves easy under the same do wish your Excell Health & happiness any pray you may Continue in her Majesty's Favour

Signed p order R: Dallam Cl Ho Del

To which his Excell was pleased to make the following Re- ^{p. 564}turn

December 2^d 1708

Gentlemen

I have with very great Satisfaction received your answer by Col Smith & and the other members to what I offered to you