

move Such obstruccons which Seem to impede the Ecclesi- L. H. J.
 asticall Jurisdiction and Authority in this Province of the
 right reverend the Lord Bishop of London, This Conference
 think themselves obliged by their Duty to God to Yield all due
 Obedience to the Discipline of our Mother Church of England
 as by law established but as this Infant Province has not
 hitherto had the Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction exercised in it
 And therefore are in a great part Strangers to it's Powers
 and Authorities of punishing Crimes and Offences whereby
 We are rendred uncapable of Judging how farr it may have
 power to punish those Crimes that at the same time may be
 punishable in the Severall Courts of Law in this Province, w^{ch}
 if so would be very grievous to the people. The Consideration
 of which they humbly Conceive would be a Work that may
 require length of Time Wherefore they humbly offer the
 further Consideracon thereof of his Excy & the two Houses
 of Assembly.

Sign'd p Order Jn^o Beard Cl Conference

Which was read and referred till the afternoon.

The house adjourns till one a Clock in the afternoon.

Post-Meridiem. The house meet According to Adjourn-
 ment.

The pet^o from the City of Annapolis read & Leave is given
 to bring in a Bill as prayed as to the City but no wise to Meddle
 with the Town Comon and that ten Acres more be laid out in
 twenty Lots.

On a mocōn made on behalf of Maurice Birchfield Esq^r to p. 58
 withdraw his Petition Leave is given to withdraw the Same.

On reading the Report of the Conferrees on the representa-
 con of the Clergy this House agree wth their Opinion & think
 that the putting the ecclesiasticall Laws in force here would
 be altogether impracticable and therefore referr the Con-
 sideracon Thereof to the upper House of Assembly and Or-
 dered the following Message be prepared viz.

By the lower House of Assembly May the 3^d 1718.

We have read the Report of the Conferrees appointed to
 consult on the Clergy's representacon and agree wth them in
 Opinion that the putting the Ecclesiasticall Laws in force here