

U. H. J. Assembly in the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 20th of this Instant February Which Answer is as follows Viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly

Feb 23^d 1721

May it please your Honour.

With the greatest Sense of Gratitude We observe the Regret you are pleased to express, at the Trouble and Charge given to the Inhabitants of this Province, by calling an Assembly at this Unseasonable Time of the year; and We are so well convinced by the many Instances Which We have heretofore had, of your Honours good Inclinations to promote the Publick Interest, that We believe nothing but a pressing necessity could have induced you to convene the present Assembly. And we cannot but acknowledge that the unhappy Manner of wording the Law already made for bettering the Quality of Tobacco within this Province has given too great occasion to Persons who do not so much consider the Intention, as the Expression of that Law, to find fault with it; and to many well disposed persons to object against taking the Oaths thereby enjoin'd But as the wisest Legislators have not always been so happy, upon the first Attempt to provide proper Remedies against encreasing Evils; so we hope, we may be excused, if, after having Acknowledged the Imperfections we assiduously apply ourselves to an Amendment of them.

We cannot Sufficiently express our earnest Desires to make Suitable Returns to the Best of Kings, for his Princely Benevolence towards and his paternal Care over us upon all occasions; And particularly in the late Instance your Honour has been pleased to communicate to us, of his most gracious Speech to the British Parliament, in favour of our declining Trade. And we think ourselves obliged in Gratitude to exert our Utmost Endeavours to comply with our most gracious Sovereigns Royal Inclinations, and your Honours favourable Recommendation, by taking equitable and Proper Measures to encourage the making of Hemp in this Province

It is with much Sorrow and Concern we find by your Honour's Intimation that false Reports have been spread by some ill-disposed Persons, with Design to create misunderstandings between your Honour and the good People of this Province. With just Resentment We Condemn such their pernicious Practice; And doubt not your future Administration of this Government will Sufficiently evince the falsity of