

L. H. J. bouring Colony (Carolina) did some years ago in a Case of the like nature

Signd p order Sam^l Skippon Cl Up Ho.

In Answer whereto the following message is prepared Viz.

By the Lower House of Assembly Oct. the 31st 1724
May it please yo^r Honours

We are at a Loss to guess what part of our Message about the Clergy it is that you understand us as recommending you to erect a lay Jurisdiction for the Establishment of Ecclesiasticall Discipline and can therefore Say no more to it, than to Desire your Honours' further consideration of that message which probably your Hon^{rs} might be lead to misconstrue from the apprehension the Clergy Exprest in their Representation They indeed Set forth that they were inform'd that a motion was made to erect a Jurisdiction for the better Governm^t of the Church and Clergy. We indeed thought it necessary to do something that might influence Some of the Clergy to govern themselves more like moralists & Christians than they do the more's the pity; and tho' we never had any intent to infringe the Ecclesiasticall Laws, yet by Complaints from most parts of the province that the misconduct of the Clergy and of their pretending to a Generall Exemption of their psons from all punishment by the temporall Laws, loudly called for our Endeavours to inforce those Laws ag^t them, and we beg leave to observe that as the Clergy Signing the Representation grant there [is] a necessity for the Inforcement of Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction as the only proper method to redress the Grievances of the Church, we should have been Glad that the Clergy had given us their Opinion what those Grievances were for we frankly declare (tho' sorry for the Cause) that we think the Immorality and prophanity of some of their Brethren the greatest that we know of and if they would by their Representation be understood that it [would] be opposite to their Ordination Vow to submitt to Temporall punishment for their Immoralities we should be glad [if] they would recommend it to their Brethren as tenderly to consider whether their Conduct be not more Contrary to that Vow than their submitting to the Laws of their Country for such offences as they cannot but know [to be] of evil Example and to the Common hurt of Christianity.

We have heard of the Case of Carolina and have likewise [been] told that the Act for Establishing the forty p poll cannot be touched by the Legislature and we doubt the Gentlemen's Security renders them Careless, but we hope your