

L. H. J. M<sup>r</sup> Speaker Communicated the Governor's answer to an Address of this House, viz.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly

I was very glad to Receive your Address concerning the Land whereon the House designed for the Residence of the Governor for the time being is Building, and am well pleased that you have enquired into the State of it, which I will readily lay before you.

The Land on which the Building is Carrying on, is part of a Tract of Land, for which Thomas Bordley Esq<sup>r</sup> ffather of M<sup>r</sup> Stephen Bordley mentioned in your Address, and Thomas Larkin Esq<sup>r</sup> deceased, obtained a Grant or patent, which patent was vacated by a Decree of the Court of Chancery, and my Lord proprietary Restored to his former Right, which I make no doubt will to all unbiassed persons, appear to be clear and Incontestable, and his Lordship is now in actual Possession.

M<sup>r</sup> Bordley however still pretended he had a Right to that Land, which thô I looked upon as merely insignificant, yet in view of Extinguishing all Claims and pretensions whatsoever, I agreed to pay him his own price viz. 200<sup>l</sup> Currency; Upon making this Agreement I contracted with a fit person to see the work Carried on, and that it should be begun in March last; I likewise employed and agreed  
p. 389 with workmen and Labourers to bring materials to place, and to proceed to Compleat the Building with all possible expedition.

After the foundation of the House was Dug, which Cost Sixty pounds, and part of the Materials were brought to place (to which M<sup>r</sup> Bordley never once objected that I know of) I directed a Deed to be drawn, wherein was a Covenant to warrant the Land against the said Stephen Bordley, and all persons Claiming under him or his ffather only, and was Ready to pay the Money; This Deed M<sup>r</sup> Bordley Refused to Execute, and would only Warrant against himself and any Claiming under him, which I thought so very unreasonable, that I could not in honour or prudence come into it; because he cannot possibly have any kind of Right but what he derives from his ffather; and his Refusal to secure the public against any Claim or pretence from that Quarter, seemed to me to indicate, that whatever Claim his ffather might have had, he was Conscious that he had not any; if he had not, he had no pretence to ask or receive any money; if he had the same Right or Claim that his ffather had, he ought not to have Refused executing the Deed; however if your House approves of such a Deed as he offered to execute, or any other, I will without hesitation pay the money.

As to his Lordship's Right, I will undertake that it shall be Vested in the public according to the intentions of the Act of Assembly without any expence to the Country, because I know his Lordship always intended it as a favour to the Country.