

L. H. J.
Liber No. 47
December 7

Likewise Resolved, That it be an Instruction to the said Committee, to inspect the Form of the Oaths of Office, that have been, and now are usually taken by the several Magistrates; and that in case the following Clause be not inserted in the said Oath, it be reported to the House; such Clause being agreeable to the Oath taken by the Judges in England, and Resolved to be necessary here; viz.

“To do equal Law and Right to all the King’s Subjects, rich and poor; and not to delay any Person of common Right, for the Letters of the King, the Lord Proprietary, or of any other, or for any other Cause; but if any such Letters come to them, they shall proceed to do the Law, the same Letters notwithstanding.”

And that a Copy of these Resolves be made and given to the said Committee, when they first go out every Sessions; and that making and giving such Copies be the undoubted Duty of the Clerk of this House, and within the Purview of his Oath.

Resolved also, That this Province is not under the Circumstances of a conquered Country; that if it were, the present Christian Inhabitants thereof would be in the Circumstances, not of the Conquered, but of the Conqueror, it being a Colony of the English Nation, encouraged by the Crown to transplant themselves hither, for the Sake of improving and enlarging it’s Dominions; which, by the Blessing of God upon their Endeavours, at their own Expence and
p. 193 Labour, has been in great measure obtained: And ’tis unanimously Resolved, that whoever shall advance, that his Majesty’s Subjects, by such their Endeavours and Success, have forfeited any Part of their English Liberties, are not Wellwishers to the Country, and mistake it’s happy Constitution.

Resolved also, That if there be any Pretence of Conquest, it can be only supposed against the Native Indian Infidels; which Supposition cannot be admitted, because the Christian Inhabitants purchased great Part of the Land they at first took up from the Indians, as well as from the Lord Proprietary, and have ever since continued in an amicable Course of Trade with them; except some partial Outrages and Skirmishes, which never amounted to a general War, much less to a general Conquest, the Indians yet enjoying their Rights and Privileges of Treaties and Trade with the English, of whom we yet frequently purchase their Rights of such Lands as we take up, as well as of the Lord Proprietary.

Resolved further, That this Province hath always hitherto had the Common Law, and such general Statutes of England, as are securitative of the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and such Acts of Assembly as were made in the Province to suit it’s particular Constitution, as the Rule and Standard of it’s Government and Judicature; such Statutes and Acts of Assembly being subject to the like Rules of Common Law, or equitable Construction, as are used by the Judges in construing statutes in England; which happy Rules have, by his