

according to the Laws, Statutes, Ordinances, and reasonable Customs of England, and of this Province, or to such other Words as have Relation thereto; and that they shall immediately make Report to the House, of any Alteration that shall at any Time happen in such Commission; and likewise to have Regard, as near as may be, to observe wherein they differ from the Forms of the several Sorts of Commissions to the Judges and Justices in England.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
December 13

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 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.