

Richard their Majesty's Lieutenant Governour of the same, then in Command of the Government of the said Province was committed to the charge and conduct of the said Sir Edmund Andross Knight their Majesty's Lieutenant Governour of their Colony and Dominion of Virginia; he the said Sir Edmund Andross hereby did proclaim and declare that all Officers civil and military should be confirmed in their several and respective Places and Offices by the same as by the said Commission and Proclamation remaining upon Record in the said Court of Records more at large may appear; And because upon reading and inquiring of the said Commission of their Majesty's bearing date the 21th Day of August 1691. to Capt ^{Francis Nicholson} appointing and constituting the said Francis Nicholson Lieutenant Governour of and in this Province, and the said Lyonel Copley to exercise and execute the several Powers and Authority's in the said Commission to the said Governour Copley, it appears to us that their Majesty's had made expresse provision that the said Lievt Governour Nicholson upon the death of the said Lyonel Copley Esq^e should succeed to the Chief Command in this Province, and if not present upon the place at the death of the said Lyonel Copley, that the Council should take upon them the Government of the Province, whereof the first in Council to preside; neither doth the said Commission to the said Sir Edmund Andross sufficiently Authorise the said Sir Edmund Andross to take upon him the Government aforesaid, but upon the death of the said Francis Nicholson Esq^e and absence of the said Lyonel Copley Esq^e, neither doth the Proclamation aforesaid of the said Sir Edmund Andross agree with the said Commission in Reciting that his Access to the Government was by the death or absence of the said Francis Nicholson Esq^e, which in the said Commission is expressly confined to the death of the said Francis Nicholson and not absence, neither did the said Sir Edmund Andross take such Oath for observing of a certain Act of Parliament made in the XII. Year of the Reign of King Charles the II. of Blessed Memory, Intituled *an Act for the Incouraging & Increasing of Shipping & Navigation* before his Entrance into the Government aforesaid, as by the said Statute is commanded, injoynd, and required of all Governours & Commanders in chief of any their Majesty's lands, Islands, Plantations and Territory's, nor administer or direct, the same to be admittred to Colonel Nicholas Greenbury by lease him as President, nor Sir Thomas Lawrence at his next coming, and because also that by the Access of the said Sir Edmund Andross to the said Government, by his Authority divers Acts and Actions Judicial and Civil have been done, executed and performed in Courts of Record, and otherwise in this Province; which for the Reasons aforesaid appear precarious and doubtful: In tender Contemplation whereof, and for the Ease and Quiet, Peace and Settlement of your Majesty's most Loyal and Dutyful Subjects of this your Majesty's Province, they humbly pray and beseech your Royal Majesty's that it may be Enacted.

And BE IT ENACTED by your Sacred Majesty's by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, that all manner of Actions, Suits, Causes and Proceedings in all and every their Majesty's Courts within this Province, either by holding, setting, adjourning, continuing, or other proceeding, to hearing and determining any Suit, Action, Motion, Petition or other Matter whatsoever, shall be had, taken, accepted & reputed as valid in Law or Equity, and of absolute Force Efficacy and Strength in Law to all Intents, Purposes, and Constructions as any other Judicial Proceedings by any other of their Majesty's more ample Commissions for the due Government of this Province heretofore granted: And all and every Officer and Minister Civil or Military in this their Majesty's Province, shall and are hereby confirmed, established and ratysied; for in or by Reason of any Legal Acting and Proceeding in their several and Respective Offices Places and Stations, from the time of the Access of the said Sir Edmund Andross Knight, to his Excellency's the present Governour Francis Nicholson Esq^e his arrival and taking the Government upon him, any Clause, Imperfection, or want of Authority in or to the said Sir Edmund Andross or the Commission aforesaid, to the said Sir Edmund Andross notwithstanding. Provided that nothing in this Act be taken and construed to justify Sir Edmund Andross's taking and disposing of the publick Revenues for the Support of the Government of this Province, or debar the Assembly or any person whatsoever of their right or claims to the same which he took.