

His Excellency acquaints this Board that he is informed that a Vote hath passed this Session in the Lower house of Assembly declaring some of their Members disqualified from attending in that <sup>house</sup> the said Members having accepted Places of Trust since their Election; and desires their Opinion whether the Assembly may be dissolved upon such a Conjunction; This Board is of Opinion the Assembly should be dissolved; but desires his Excellency would be pleased to delay the doing it until the Afternoon.

Etodem Die post Meridieum  
At a Council held in the Council Chamber  
Present as in the Morning

His Excellency lays before this Board the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly

It is with very great Concern that I find myself under a Necessity of taking Notice of your expelling several of the Members of your House for only accepting of Offices under the Government since their Election, although there is no Law of this Province to render them unqualified, or incapable to sit for that Reason: Had the Gentlemen You have been pleased to expel been guilty of, or charged with any Misdemeanor in their Duty as Members of your House, You would have been the proper Judges how to proceed, and would not pretend to interpose, but when You have proceeded to so great a length, as either to make a Vote, or Resolution of your own house, equally valid and binding to an Act of Assembly or else to form a violent and unreasonable Construction upon Laws, so as to make them agreeable to your Purpose, I could not, without being wanting in my Duty to his Majesty, His Lordship the Lord Proprietary, as well as the Discharge of the Obligation I am under to preserve the Rights and Liberties of his Majestys Subjects under my Government, delay exercising that Authority with which I am intrusted in preserving Our Constitution, & hindring One Branch of Our Legislature from enjoying the same Power & Authority which is vested, and only vested in the whole.

It has always been the Custom of Our Mother Country, to keep up & support that necessary Dependance, which One Part of the Legislature has, and ought to have upon Others, to the End that Publick Interest may be carried on by the united Endeavours of all the Parts of the Legislature: It is by observing these wise Maxims, that Our happy Constitution is so firmly established, and Nothing can in all Probability tend more to weaken that Establishment, than the overthrowing that Dependance, I have been mentioning, and It is evident to any considering impartial Man, that your expelling your Members in the Manner You have done, is assuming a Power to your selves entirely independent, and indeed destructive of the Other Parts of the Legislature, and of the Liberties and Properties of his Majestys Subjects, which not only as a Governor, but