

M^r Clark the following message viz. To his Excellency the Governor and Council

By the House of Burgesses July the 8th 1696

We did yesterday by our mutual message address ourselves to your Excellency in Council concerning a Bill lying before us touching such redressed instructions to Concede to which your Excellency has not yet been pleased to give us answer we humbly pray your Excellency to be assured that what we have done or desired proceeds from honest Hearts and earnest desires as well to the service of Almighty God and his Majesty as to our own rights and liberties and therefore your Excellency will so understand us & give an answer to our former message. Signed for Order W^m Bladen of the Assembly

An Answer thereto was drawn up as following
By his Excellency the Governor and Council July the 8th 1696

The message last night by M^r Clark Major Hammond & was received as also that by Col Codd Captain Tash and M^r Clark this morning sent wherein the House prays some further time to consider of a certain Bill therein mentioned this Board do therefore recommend that they dispatch the other Business now lying before them and bring up the several Bills engrossed that some speedy end may be put to this present Session Signed for Order Hen Denton of the Council

The said Message was sent by the honorable Col Robertham Col Greenbury Col Hutchins & M^r Brooks who returned and say they delivered the same. Came from the House of Burgesses M^r Cranford and M^r Fryer who acquainted his Excellency that the House is ready to come up and desire to know whether they may have admittance who are told they may. Came accordingly M^r Speaker attended with the whole House who presented to his Excellency an Address of thanks Drawn up to his sacred Majesty for being gracious by pleased to take of the Quota of men commanded from this Province towards the assistance of New York & the which was signed to by his Majesty's honorable Council and House of Burgesses. Afterwards Presented the following Bills for his Excellency's passing which were severally perused and assented to by his Majesty's honorable Council the Amendments proposed being therein agreed to be altered the Titles whereof are as following
An Act for sanctifying and keeping Holy the Lords day commonly called Sunday
A Supplemental Act to the Act for raising a Supply for defraying the Publick Charge of this Province
An Act prohibiting all manner of profane Swearing and cursing
An Act for keeping and setting the Clerk of the Court's fees within this Province
An Act reviving the Temporary laws of this Province
An Act for Repealing a certain law against striking of Fish in Somerset & Doubled County
An Act for keeping the Publick levy of this Province
An Address to his most sacred Majesty concerning Free Schools in this Province the which were Passed under the Broad Seal of the Province in Presence of the whole Assembly his Excellency signifying his Assent thereto by signing them with this Indorsement
July the 8th 1696

On the behalf of his Majesty King William the third I will these to be laws
Francis Nicholson

Afterwards his Excellency was pleased to tell them that the Bill here presented relating to Religion had been considered and that he is sorry to find them so sufficient a matter of that nature which as it is now drawn his Majesty will not assent to for that his Majesty has declared he will not assent to any law that contains things of different Nature in it as this does wherein they join Ecclesiastical & Temporal matters together being pleased also to signify that he hopes they do not question his Majesty's wisdom nor abating them of any privileges due them as Englishmen who came over to preserve and is now actually engaged for the defence of their liberties and that if they question