

The said Messenger read also the Clause in the Bill relating thereto his Excellency is pleased to state the question what is meant by those words according to the Statute laws for that they are of a large extent therefore will want explanation and it being debated for some time the Messengers are sent for in who accordingly come

They are asked what is meant by those words / According to the Statutes of England / to which Mr Dent answered that he has no authority from the House to say any thing in that matter but according to his own private sense does say that he takes this to be the meaning viz that where the laws of this Province are silent Justice shall be administered according to the laws of England pursuant to an Act of Assembly of this Province

His Excellency is pleased to signify to them that the Parliament of Ireland have thought fit to Enact by a law what Statutes of England shall be in force in that Kingdom and that they would do well to acquaint the House and consider of it whether such General Words may not rather be a Grievance to the People than otherwise they take leave and Depart

Brought from the House of Burgesses by Major Thompson and nine other members the following Message which was read viz By the House of Burgesses July 9th 1696

It is Represented to us by the Messengers last sent that his Excellency was pleased to give Caution to this House that the Clause in the Act of Religion should be explained what was meant by the Words Statute and laws of England and requested that the House should explain themselves so as to make the words answer the ends Intended for which they humbly thank his Excellency and pray that to the former Words in the Act these words may be annexed in all matters and Cases where the laws of this Province are silent with which words we pray the said Bill may pass
Signed for Order W Bladen (Chapman)

By his Excellency the Governor and Council July 9 1696

Ordered that the several lawyers in Town return under their hands unto his Excellency in Council with all Imaginable Expedition in writing whether in the new Bill drawn up relating to Religion &c a Clause therean inserted touching the Liberty of the Subject does not thereby give right to any person in case of meum and tuum to remove his cause to Westminster and whether upon the Statute of Magna Charta a man cannot demand to carry his cause to the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster
Signed for Order Henry Denton Esq

To his Excellency the Governor

In Obedience to his Command I am humbly of Opinion that the said Clause in the said Bill does not give right to any Person to remove his Cause to Westminster Hall to the Court of Common Pleas thereby Reason of the saving in the said Bill and the other laws of this Province direct how and where suits shall be made Conformable to his Majestys Instructions therein which is humbly submitted to your Excellency by Your Obedient Servants Geo. Plater William Dent Phil Clarke James Cranford Wm Hemley

I humbly conceive that as his Majesty hath full Power to erect Courts so to limit the Jurisdiction of the same to any particular Person or Place as he pleases and that he hath by his Excellencys Commission and the laws of this Province done the same here & ought not to be removed hence contrary to the same
Hendm Gresseldyn Robert Smith Edward Boothby

July 10th 1696 The Council again sat and were present yesterday

Brought from the House of Burgesses by Major Thompson and three more of the House the following Messengers

By the House of Burgesses July 10th 1696