

hearing of them their Arguments and Pleadings have Resolved that it is a very dangerous Opinion giving Liberty to the depriveng and forejudging his Majestys Subjects of their Freehold and Libertyhood upon bare Suggestion without any presentment of their peers and to the exasperating your Excellency against his Majestys Subjects of this Province for protecting people in their rights according to their Oaths to the great vexation of his Majestys Subjects and dishonour of his Majesty

But if your Excellency and Council will at the humble Address of his Majesty Subjects shew such mark of your displeasur to them as to Consent with them that the Gentlemen each of them pay ten Shillings a Piece to our Sergeant at Arms and suffer the said Paper to be burned and Recover Mr Cranford into your Excellency's hands you will give us occasion to magnify your Justice and readiness to preserve our Rights and to be always tender of your Excellencies Honour and to pray for your long continuance amongst us

Signed for Order W. Bladen Clerk of the House

Monday March the 21 1697

The Council again sat and were Present as yesterday

Upon Representation that the several Sheriffs do grievously burthen the Inhabitants of this Majesty's Province in charging excessive fees especially upon Persons lying under Execution where they usually charge twenty a day during their Imprisonment for each particular Execution the Prisoner is served with therefore proposed that a Law be made to redress such Grievances forbidding the fees and punish the Person transgressing

By the Excellency the Governor and Council in Assembly March the 21 1697

His Excellency is pleased to command Mr Speaker and the whole House immediately to attend him in Council to settle the matter about the Indians Reported by the Committee being one of the principal things for which the Assembly was called

Signed for Order Henry Denton Clerk of Council

Thomas Tench and James Judy Esq sent with the said message

Who return and say they delivered their message and that the House had adjourned till twelve a'clock

Brought from the House of Delegates by W. Henry Hawkins and four other members the following Bills viz a Bill Appointing Court days in each respective County & a Bill for reviving local County process & a Bill for restraining the Execution of Sheriffs and the following message viz

By the House of Delegates March the 19 1697

May it please your Excellency

Upon reading the further Report of the Committee concerning the Indians the House considering in your Excellencies good Conduct and well knowing you never Exposed us to Unnecessary Charges do humbly refer it to your Excellencies discretion to continue the Rangers at new Scotland at such places as you shall think fit until the Indians do come in but humbly advise that it may be so near the Indian towns that they may hear any Alarm upon occasion and that upon Accommodation with the Indians your Excellency will be pleased to call in those Rangers whom this House do not think fit further necessary to be kept out

Signed for Order W. Bladen Clerk of the House

Brought from the House of Delegates the following Message by Mr Staley and Mr Young

By the House of Delegates March the 29 1697

May it please your Excellency

Upon reading a Certain Letter from a Reverend Minister of the Church of England which your Excellency was pleased to communicate to us complaining