

what there is to be done

5 Whether to Continue the Prisons up the River among the Frontier Plantations to be considered of at the Conference like thought thus forming the way smooth to them it will be better that they be drawn up to the head of the Branch or Soldiers plantation and that Col<sup>l</sup> Boal and a Lieutenant under his command a Party of Six men and Orons six more as well to the right sufficient

Upon the again reading of a message from the House of the ninth Instant relating to the Indians and Committee Report thereon his Excellency is pleased to return for Answer that he gives the House thanks for their good opinion of him and hopes that they shall never have Reason to say that either himself or any of his Majesty's Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council will never put the Province to the least unnecessary Charge more than what is needful both for his Majesty's honour and service and safety and Welfare of the Country

March the 24 1698

The Council again sat and were Present as Yesterday

The several answers to the Houses resolves and sundry messages last night drawn up were Produced fair writ out and were read this morning and sent to the House by the honourable Thomas Tench Esq and Colonel John Addison together with the Bills Yesterday read and an Account of what proposals have not yet been answered

Upon Representation that a Bugantine named Hare belonging to Major Thomas Ennals and others hath lately imported sundry Barbadoes Goods for which no duties have been paid out of pretence that the said Vessel wholly belongs to Maryland Owners but by Information hath two or three other persons that are no Inhabitants Owners whereby the Imposition of 1/3 Gallon justly due hath been eluded Ordered that the said matter be referred to the Committee of Accounts to inquire into it and secure the duties due and Payable to the Country

The Messengers return and say that they delivered their message and that the Speaker if possible will attend at the State House some time today

Brought from the House of Delegates a Bill for rectifying the ill Practices of Attorneys &c by Mr Harris Major Hammond and other members

Which said Bill being read a Conference is desired thereon

The said Messengers signify that they are appointed by the House to confer with his Majesty's honourable Council about setting the Courts &c pursuant to Command this day received from the Board

Whereupon the honourable Col<sup>l</sup> Jones Col<sup>l</sup> Addison and Esq Fry are appointed to Join with them in the Conference who being met the members from the House signify that they cannot proceed in the Conference until they have acquainted the House the Heads of what they are sent to confer about which being by Order writ out was delivered to them to be Communicated accordingly

The Houses Members Repair to the House and again Return upon the Conference and signify that the House have amended the fine in the said Bill but cannot agree to any Alteration which if Required they are Resolved to stand by the old Law

The House having been acquainted that his Excellency was ready for the Conference about the Indians and other matters Mr Speaker with the other members came up accordingly

To whom his Excellency is pleased to say that one of the Provincial Matters for which he called the Assembly was to settle the matter about the Indians

Which he thought no better way of doing than by a Conference with the whole House upon which occasion he had now sent for them and the first thing he conceived