

Alto Com from the Honorable W. Kells and Mr. Ferry  
By the House of Delegates November the 12 1698  
To his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq. his Majesty  
Captains General and his Majesty's honorable Council in Assembly  
The humble Address of the House of Delegates

May it Please your Excellency

Whereas your Excellency and Council have been pleased by  
several Messages to make Reflections upon this House to rectify the particulars  
whereof would be rather cause of Aggravation than palliate... We understanding  
and since your Excellency has been signally blessed with the Favour of our most  
Great Sovereign in that he hath benevolently pleased to commit the Government  
of Virginia to your care and conduct and must leave us We cannot but humbly Pre-  
sent and declare to your Excellency that this Province hath been extremely Obliged  
to your Excellency under the your Government and do desire your Excellency  
would Esteem us as united in our his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects and  
as it must be Acknowledged one of our Greatest Temporal Blessings that it hath  
Please Almighty God to send a true and sincere King and Rule over us and  
whom we shall ever be ready to serve with our Greatest Abilities with that dutiful  
and useful Request which becomes Subjects of England in considering our Allegiance  
to his most Sacred Majesty to which we have sworn and the Principles of Christianity  
and more Especially as we are Protestants according to the Church of England which  
in all its Circumstances we shall be ready and willing to vindicate cannot but cast  
any Reflection whatsoever is contrary our Duties to his most Sacred Majesty  
as our Great Sovereign is the Protestant Religion as by Law Established and that  
if debate concerning our Privileges have been beyond what is really our right of which  
we are not yet sensible we desire they may rather be imputed to our Stubbornness

Signed John C. Gregory Clerk of the House of Delegates

In Answer whereunto was sent the following Message

By his Majesty's honorable Council in Assembly November the 12 1698  
Gentlemen

We have received your Address and if any Reflections have been made by  
us we are not to be blamed for we have had occasion so to do but since you have sworn  
to defend your selves to be his Majesty's true and loyal Subjects and to such due Vene-  
ration for the Church of England as by Law Established We are willing to believe that  
you Profess us and hope you will for the future square your Actions according  
thereto without falling into Heat or Animosity which produce nothing but the ill Effects  
of his Majesty's and the Country's Ruin

Signed John W. Blanton Clerk of the Council

By his Excellency the Governor November the 12 1698  
Gentlemen

What you mention in your Address concerning his Majesty's having been  
Generously pleased to commit us to the Government of Virginia I am indeed and all  
humble and Obliged to him as a singular mark of his Royal Favour and Kindness  
towards me and I hope that God Almighty will be Pleas'd to enable me to discharge so