

Byrge House of Burgesses, May ye 4th 1696.

This house does highly resent, and are much grieved to see their ~~priviledges~~ ^{priviledges} so much intrenched upon by ye hon^{ble} his Ma^{ty} Council as appeares by a late paper affixed at ye door of ye house of Assembly - at a publique Meeting upon ye Sabbath day, in which they endeavour to debarr them of that Right which is due to the (Meanest and Inferiour of ye Province (to wth) privacy and uninterrupted) and (more specially since this house considering ye present inconveniences have never ~~debarred~~ ^{debarred} the Clerks from their offices further then in prudence - and our Duty to his Ma^{ty} Service required - and therefore humbly desire the said paper in which our Rights and priviledges are so trampled upon may not remain upon ye Journalles - For as we shall ever endeavour to ye whole world to give an ample Testimony of our Duty and affection to his Excellency and the hon^{ble} Council, so likewise we shall endeavour to preserve the Rights and priviledges we are entrusted with as representatives of his Ma^{ty} Loyall and Dutyfull Subjects of this Province -

Signed for ye House of Assembly. W. Bladen Clk.

Sent by Mr. Tasker, Major Hammond, Mr. Mason, Mr. Fairley, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Boothby, Major Smallwood, Mr. Lowe, Maj^r Smithson and God: Peace.

Mr. Tasker and ye Rest of ye Members sent Returns to ye house and say they delivered their Messages.

Mr. Boothby added to ye Committee of Lawes.

Ordered that ye Committee of Lawes send for Books, papers, Records or any person or persons they may thinke fitt to advise with.

The Keeper of ye great Seales Letter read in ye house relating to his fees - Ordered, that he bring his acc^t of the severall transcripts of Lawes &c to be regulated by ye house -

Thomas Odall one of ye Coroners of this County appearing here in Custody of ye Sec^y at Arms, and alledging that he did not Committ ye offence wherewith he is charged out of any disobedience or disrespect to this house, but that he was bitterly ignorant of ye priviledges thereof.

Ordered, he be discharged paying his fees.

Ordered that ye Sec^y at Arms take Richard Clarke into Custody and have him immediately before this house to answer what shall be objected ag^t him.

Then Appointed of ye Committee of Accounts.

Mr. Robert Mason, Mr. George Lingham, Major Thomas Smith, and Mr. John Pollard.

Resolved the Act for ye Recovery of Small Debts be examined and inspected by ye house. The house adjourns till 7 o'clock to Morrow Morning.