

Tuesday May the 5th 1696.

The House mett. and upon Calling Over were absent, (Mr. Hatton, Col. Hanson, Capt. Hill, Mr. Hutchins, Major Dent, Mr. Boothby, Mr. Robert Smith, Mr. Low, Mr. Helmsley, Major Smalls, Mr. Scarborough and Col. Kerman.

Message from his Ex^{ty} the Gov. and Councils by the Hon^{ble} Colonel George Robotham, Col. Nicholas Greenberg and Capt. John Courts (Viz.:

By his Ex^{ty} the Gov. and Councils. May 4th 1696.

The Message by Capt. Taster and Generall others of ye House Members sent has been here read and Considered in answer where to his Ex^{ty} is pleased to declare that (by ye Order of Council of ye first of May instant (relating to the Clerkes and other persons having Recourses to ye officers &c. It was not intended that ye Priviledges of ye House should be any wayes Infringed upon, neither does this board take it to be any breach at all but on ye Contrary, do hold it to be a breach of Magna Charta and of the Liberty of ye people, that ye Kings officers should be shutt up especially Considering Recourses might be had to ye same through ye Commissions office without going through ye place where ye House sitt. and it is recommended by this board to ye House that they will please ye Generall papers of ye County Levys herewith sent in order to (make enquiry) and examine whether there are not Generall articles therein charged and allowed a^g ye Priviledges of ye people and knowne Lawes of this Province - Sabbath County Levy being not yett returned shall be layd also before ye House when received. as to ye Houses taking notice that ye said order was affixed to ye door of their House and on ye Sabbath day, It is observed to them that it was affixed at ye Church door, that all persons might have publique notice thereof - and if ye said Order was not taken downe ye Last night the fault lyes in the Negligence of some of ye officers.

His Ex^{ty} is pleased in particular to represent he is sorry to finde ye County is so farr engaged and burthened that ye House cannot conveniently meet so often to dispatch ye necessary business impendent upon them by reason of ye great Charge thereby accruing, does therefore propose they would make a Law that either two Delegates might be chose to be sent out of each County to serve, or that some Ordinance or a Law might pass for the House to appoint two Members at a tyme to come out of each County to dispatch ye Countys business, whereby the Levys will be eased and the Country not groan under that burthen, for that it is not knowne how soon the Assembly may again meet. By reason of this May^{ty} Royall Commands are not yett come to hand.

And it is further represented that ye Colony of Virginia which has neer double ye Tythable of this Province have but about ye same Number of Burgeses.

Signed for Henry Denton Ch. Council.