

House is met according to prerogative last Night, who returned and say they delivered their Message, and that His Exc<sup>ty</sup> was ready to receive the House when they think fit to come up.

Whereupon the House adjourned for an hour, and went up to the Chamber to attend upon His Exc<sup>ty</sup> who being admitted His Exc<sup>ty</sup> thus spake to them.

That he had to recommend to them a Bill lying before the House for the Establishing of the Protestant Religion, which Bill as it is now presented contains two different things, and His Majesty has demanded he will not pass any Bill containing things of different Natures, therefore recommends to them to pass it as proposed; for that if it should go in the words Fundamental Laws of the Kingdom of England it would occasion them to carry their Causes to Westminster. But if they think fit to draw up a Declaratory Act of their Rights and Privileges he will pass it here and use his interest for the passing thereof in England.

After which the Members repaired to their House, and entered into Debate Concerning the Said Bill.

Put to question and Carried by Majority of Voices that a Committee be appointed to draw up Reasons for or against passing the said Bill.

Appointed of the S<sup>d</sup> Committee, Capt. Dent, Mr. Boothby, Mr. Clarke, Capt. Hill, Col. Codd, Major Hutchinson, Major Thompson, Mr. Robert Smith, and Mr. Wm. Hutchinson.

House adjourned for two hours.

post Meridieum - The House met.

Major Dent and the other Members appointed this day a Committee to draw up Reasons for or against passing the Bill for Religion, into the House and present severall Reasons for and against passing the S<sup>d</sup> Bill as proposed which were read in the House and these in the following Message sent up to His Exc<sup>ty</sup> and His Majesty's Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council, viz<sup>t</sup>

By the House of Burgesses July the 9<sup>th</sup> 1696.

We have with our Members & Committee, uniting Considered the Clause in the Law for Religion; And We are earnestly desirous to propagate the same under a sense of our duty to God - Loyalty to His most Sacred Majesty and invitation of His Exc<sup>ty</sup> most noble and worthy example, so we conceive we ought not altogether to be unmindfull of the Rights and Liberties of ourselves and those we represent. We are earnestly desirous rightly to understand His Exc<sup>ty</sup> and to be rightly understood by him, and therefore have endeavoured to find out an accomodation of words, that may answer all intents, by putting in the words, Laws and Statutes of England instead of the words Fundamental Laws of England.

We are not in the least doubt of our Rights or Liberties being infringed by our Gracious Sovereign or our noble and worthy Governour.