

James Crauford, Capt. Philip Hopkins, Mr. Benj. Hall, Mr. George Ashman, Mr. John Ferry

Read the Message last night sent by Major Dent his Majesty's Secy.

By his Majesty's Hon^{ble} Councils Nov. the 8th 1698.

Gents: Your Message last night by Maj. Gaudin and others which you call an address has been recommended by his Ex^{ty}. to our Consideration how clearly his Ex^{ty}. has acquitted his Conduct and you from these Impositions so unfairly insinuated we are fully Satisfied and you believe are all unprejudiced Minds and these who are not we shall not be Carefull to Satisfie but as to your Message.

It is very true Gent: the King has Comanded that Journalls as well of the House of Delegates as of the Councils shall be transmitted to his Majesty but this Comand is laid by his Majesty on his Ex^{ty}. the Gov: who hath duly and constantly performed the same but if his Majesty hath since laid the Charge on you Speaker or house and to acquit his Ex^{ty}. of it. may shew it that Obedience may be paid to it otherwise we cannot advise his Ex^{ty}. to desert the Charge or Delegate it on Others.

As for your pretended Jealousies of Cts: and Others we understand not your Riddles and dark sayings we would have you to speak plaine and Intelligent, and if you know of any Cts: or others that have Injured you therein lett us know and we will take Care to Impreach and punish them.

Your second and third Articles are much of one Nature wherein you desire his Ex^{ty}. may not deter or over awe the House from freely debating Matters and that no Member be called before the House or sent for.

We advise you will not speak plaine and shew when and where, how and in what his Ex^{ty}. hath so dealt with any Members of your house, otherwise you seem a afraid of Invisible Nothings and are not Capable of a Remedy.

Gent: If any Man has or does desire freedom to Debate at Random - without any regard to the Dignity of his Majesty and Honor of his Gov^{ty}. and under the Nature of priviledge to assigne prerogatives you cannot expect but that his Ex^{ty}. will deter such from their practices in Order to prevent their punishment, nor can we in Hon^{or}. or in duty advise otherwise.

In your fourth Article you desire would receive into his protection the Justices of peace and those that serve his Majesty for no reward.

You seem to intimate by this that the Justices are all outlawed for all other Affairs are under his Majesty's protection, and his Ex^{ty}. has never restrained that protection either to Justices or others so long as they Carry themselves in dutifull obedience to his Majesty and his Laws.

Its true there has been severall Justices lately questioned for leaving Job