

Bill for Relief of Poor Debtors and Languishing Debtors and  
 Answer to Message about Attorneys and persons keeping Stores  
 out of Towns &c. as follows viz

By the Council in Assembly December 23<sup>th</sup> 1708.

Gentlemen your Message by M<sup>r</sup>. Hensby and M<sup>r</sup>. Covington relating  
 to Attorneys &c. being read at the Board, we find you have misread  
 his Excellency's Order in Council concerning the Admission of  
 Attorneys to plead in this Province in which there is a Saving to all  
 who have a Right to that Practice viz<sup>t</sup> Whoever have been of any  
 of the Inns of Court or Chancery, And what you observe to be an  
 Aggravance, and contrary to the known Practice of all Courts of Great  
 Britain, We are of Opinion the House are not Acquainted with the  
 Practice of the Courts there, which we are well inform'd is otherwise  
 for that neither the Chancery, Queens Bench, Common Pleas or  
 Exchequer, Admitt their Practitioners in their severall Courts the Serjants  
 and Barristers on Certificates of the Benchers being called by the  
 Queens Majesty and the severall Attorneys Admitted and Sworn by the  
 Master of the Queens Bench and Prothonotaries of the Common Pleas  
 Nor is the Practice of this Province of such duration to Inform us  
 of such ancient Right so that on due consideration we can see no  
 Aggravance but rather an Advantage of the good people of this Province  
 that the Government take care none but men of known Integrity and  
 Ability, are suffer'd to practice in the severall Courts who need not  
 apprehend any bodys displeasur for defending their Clients whilst  
 they contain themselves from railing and Scandalous Speeches against  
 the Governm<sup>t</sup>. Nevertheless by the said order of Council there is  
 no Inhibition to the Justices of the Proov. or County Courts from  
 suspending any Practitioners who give any Just Occasion by  
 their Insolence or other misbehaviour, But on the contrary this  
 Excellency has been sufficiently Satisfy'd with their so doing and  
 has often declared he should be very glad to see the County Justices  
 assert their Authority on all such Occasions.

Upon the latter part of your message about severall Merchant  
 keeping Stores not in Towns under pretence of this Excellency's  
 having given them leave so to do, his Excellency is pleas'd to say he  
 never gave any such leave but that on the Application of Caff<sup>r</sup> John  
 Barracott the Council with the Assistance of two of the Justices of the  
 Provincial Court had given the Opinion herewith sent you which is  
 no dispensation with the Law for Towns.