

(436)

By the House of Delegates Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 1711

May it please your Excellency

We the Delegates of this Province now convened in a general Assembly having taken into Consideration the Instructions to which your Excellency's Speech at the Opening of this Session refers do with unfeigned Hearts return your Excellency our hearty Thanks for the Zeal and religious Care you express for the Support and Observance of our Religion as by Law established which we humbly are of Opinion is provided for as far as our Circumstances will admit by several Acts of Assembly of this Province and more particularly by an Act entitled an Act for the Service of Almighty God and Establishment of Religion in this Province according to the Church of England &c. We also beg Leave to acquaint your Excellency that we are humbly of Opinion that there are sufficient Laws already provided for the Punishment and Discouragement of all Drunkenness, Debauchery, Swearing and Blasphemy if put in due Execution by the several Magistrates of this Province and we assure your Excellency this House will at all Times be very thankful to your Excellency if upon just Complaint you do remove any Justice of Peace that shall fail in his Duty therein or commit any Breach of them, and are assured that your Excellency's Declaration thereon and good Example (of which we cannot nor have the least Grounds to doubt) will very much tend to effect what your Excellency and we so much desire. We likewise are with Submission to acquaint your Excellency that (Sincerely acknowledging the most Princely and tender Regard Mercy and Moderation of her Majesty towards all her Subjects and all others seeking Refuge in her Kingdoms and Dominions) there is a Law already made for restraining Servitors to Servants by Masters or Overseers which is entitled an Act relating to Servants and Slaves whereby the Justices of the Peace or County Courts of this Province are empowered in a Summary Manner to hear and determine Complaints between Masters and Servants by way of Petition to give Judgment and award Execution; but we intend to inspect into the same and if we find or are informed by your Excellency that it is any ways deficient shall revise and amend it. We further represent to your Excellency that a sufficient and charitable Provision is already made by several Acts of Assembly of this Province for the Support of such Persons as are Objects of Charity whereby the Justices of the several County Courts of this Province who are the Assessors of the several County Levies are empowered to allow them a reasonable Support and we find that Vagabonds are so much discountenanced by them that we are troubled with few or none such. We further beg Leave to assure your Excellency that we always have and shall be ready to raise such Supplies from Time to

P. S. J. 1711