

Colo Matthew Tilghman Ward from the Committee of Laws delivers Mr. Speaker an Answer to his Excellency's Speech which being read is approved of and ordered to be entered as follows viz.

To his Excellency the Governor.

May it please your Excellency

We the Delegates of this Province at this Time assembled beg leave to return your Excellency our most hearty and unfeigned Thanks for your most favourable Speech and humbly beg leave to join with your Excellency in expressing our Thanks to Heaven for his most Excellent Majesty King George's peaceable Accession to the Throne of his Ancestors the most happy Remedy that could alleviate the Grief we are truly affected with for the Loss of the best of Queens.

Nothing can make us more truly sensible of the Greatness of this Blessing than to see our Religion, Laws and Liberties secured in his Majesty's Royal Person and Issue which puts an effectual Stop to those Infimations that were secretly dispersed thro' his Majesty's Dominions. That these invaluable Advantages were in Danger than which nothing would be more grievous to us and which now is entirely removed by his Majesty's peaceable Possession of the Crown according to the Settlement of the Succession in the Protestant Line to which we shall strictly adhere and always endeavour to approve ourselves a dutiful and Loyal People.

We shall apply ourselves with the utmost Diligence to the Inspection of our Laws and to supply the Defects that shall be found therein.

We humbly submit to your Excellency's Opinion that since there has been an Act of Parliament lately made in Great Britain for the encouraging the Tobacco Trade it will not now be necessary for this House to enter upon any Thing of that Nature in this Province.

And it is with the utmost Sense of Gratitude imaginable we acknowledge that most gracious Condescension of the Crown in parting with so considerable a Part of its Revenue for our Relief; nor can we forget the tender Care the Parliament of Great Britain has expressed on our Behalf in that particular. We are so fully satisfied how great a Benefit the encouraging the making of Hemp would be to the Province that if the Act made the second Day of April Anno Dom. 1706. for encouraging the making of Hemp and Flax within this Province shall not be found by experience, and further Observation sufficient to that End. We shall very readily proceed to a further Consideration thereof and beg your Excellency's and the Honorable Council's Assistance thereto.