Gentlemen I thank you in Behalf of my Lord Proprietor for y^r Dutifull Address and in a most Perticular manner recomend the great Zeal you have shewn for the Kings Hon^r against the Daring Attempts of Papists you may Depend upon it that as my Lord Proprietor and I have nothing more at heart than the maintaing the true Orthodox Religion and principles of the Church of England and the protecting you in all Go^rs will rights and Liberty so we hope we shall be able to do both under the Administracion of our present Lt Governour Capt Hart

I do Assure you nothing can be more Welcome to my Lord Proprietor and me than the Advice of our Assembly it being so vitall a part of the Constitution and the Best Counsell of the province and we hope that as often as you give it us you will Understand the Value of your rights and priviledges so well as to Give it free & without Influence

Gentlemen You may Depend upon it no person shall be Advanced to any preferment for which he shall not be Qualified by Law

October 10th 1716 Guilford

Col^t Holland from the upper house Delivers Mr Speaker three L^ts from the Honble Nath^ll Blackiston Esq the Agent for this Province the One Dated the 6th day of October 1716 Being a Copy of one from him sent to the Lord Guilford the other Two to the Generall Assembly the One Dated the 10th of Octo: 1716 and the Other the first of March last By which this house is firmly perswaded of the Strict Hon^r and Justice as well as Great Affection of the said Nathaniell Blackiston Esq Towards this Province and also of his indefatigable Endeavours for the True Interest of Both Lord & People Maj^r John Ward Mr James Frisby & Capt Thomas Dent make their Appearance in the House

Ordered the Comittee of Laws prepare with all Convenient speed an Answer to his Lpp^s & Exc^y's Speech

John Hall Esq from the Upper House delivers Mr Speaker the the following Message Viz^t

Gent By his Exc^y in Council May ye 29th 1717

I have herewithout you for your Perusall the 11th Article of their Lpp^s Instructions to me Relating to Ordinary Licences which is as follows — Article ye 11th — Whereas the granting Ordinary's Lycences is undoubtedly in us and that we have impowered our Secretary Mr Thomas Beake and Mr Charles Lowe either by themselves