

this Province, which I shall always have at heart, and am ever  
carefull least you should hurt your selves, thro' by your own conduct  
and what will posture, and strange say, when they are informed  
the Warr you make on these Little Animals has cost the Country  
by a modest Computation in one year 7000 pounds Sterling.

When I reflect on the happy increase of the Youth in this  
Province and the vast importation of Europeans and Negroes into  
it, yet that the Number of your Taxables, do not amount to what  
it might be reasonably expected from these Causes. It is Natural  
from hence to conclude that there are not just returns made to the  
publick, this is worthy your Inquisition and in my Opinion there  
cannot be too severe penalty imposed on such who willfully  
conceal their Taxables, and so defraud the publick; whereas all  
that receive protection from your Laws ought to bear a quall  
proportion of that Charge which is Levy'd for the Common Goods.

Gentlemen,

I have after my accustomed Method laid before  
you the intention and ends of your Meeting, and what I have  
offer'd is in the Sincerity of my heart propos'd for your welfare,

But as you are, I thank God, a free people, so you may  
accept or refuse, what I now deliver to you, as you shall find  
it for the conveniency or inconveniency of your Country.

J. D. Hart

Mr. Speaker and the rest of the Members of this House  
return to their own House where Mr. Speaker resumes the Chair  
and reports what his Speech had before said.

The House Proceeds to the Choice of their Clerk, Whereupon  
Michael Jenifer is unanimously Chosen.

Ordered, that John Rousby Esq. and Mr. Philip Lee go to  
the upper House to present the said Michael Jenifer for his  
Excellencies approbation and to see him Qualified.

They return and say they see him qualified by taking the  
oaths according to the act of assembly and subscribing the Test  
and taking the following Oath of Clerks Office.

You do swear that as Clerk to the lower House of assembly  
you shall true entirely make of all such Matters and things as  
by the Honble Speaker for the time being and that House shall  
be to you directed, the secrets of the said House you shall not  
divulge to the prejudice of the house or any member thereof  
but shall in all things as Clerk to the said House well and  
truly demean yourself according to the best of your Knowledge

So help you God!