

they gain their points in view, (May possibly) one day / move fatal  
even to all His Majesties plantations on the Continent, Considering the  
prodigious Settlements a Formidable Nation of their own persuasion  
are extending on our Backs.

These Reflections Merit your Presentation — for it is much easier  
and safer to prevent than to cure an Inveterate Distemper, Contagious  
by a long Neglect, ill Habit in the Constitution but that I may not be  
wanting on my part to apply proper Remedies to these great and growing  
Evils — I hope you will approve of my intention of sending for some  
Principal persons of the Papists in Order to examine them before their  
Departure, what Priviledges they have a right to that they enjoy not, and  
I promise them readily to Concede with you in allowing them  
whatever is their due, without the least Violation.

But if this fair Occasion will not induce them to Relinquish their  
Claim to a publick examination, I must own if will Convince  
me, as I think it may (reasonably) persuade all mankind besides  
that they are Cautious it will not bear the Light.

I know no right of theirs that is infringed and if any there  
be let them make it appear (in the Name of God) that they may  
have Justice done them, and that this Province may no longer  
labour under the Misapprehensions of their right or under the  
Imputation of severities against them, but if there be none such,  
let their Silence be taken as an acknowledgement that their  
pretensions are groundless and their exclamations most  
unreasonable.

I am the more intent on this proceeding than I may have  
the opportunity of answering for you here and hereafter; the better to  
prevent their impositions on Strangers to their Ease and on the  
Credulity of unguarded Minds by their Amusement.

Gentlemen of the Lower House

I have several other matters proper for your  
consideration which shall be communicated to you by way of  
Message, in the meantime I do earnestly recommend to you  
unanimity and Dispatch in your proceedings and I do not  
doubt (whatever vain hopes others may have) you will  
make it evident to posterity that you are good Subjects, good  
Protestants and Lovers of your Country.

J. Hart

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1720

The House Adjourns till one a clock in the afternoon.  
Post Meridie. The House meet according to adjournment.  
Mr Peter Taylor a Member returned to serve for Dorchester County