

the following Message and papers vizt.

By the Upper House of Assembly, App<sup>o</sup>. 4<sup>o</sup> 9<sup>o</sup> 1720.

Gent<sup>l</sup> // His Excellency having communicated to this House the papers herewith sent you it seems to us by the Letter of the Honourable the Commissioners of the Customs that our late address to their Lordships concerning the grievances the people of this Province laboured under the Prosecutions of Maurice Birchfield Esq. Against them has not been so intelligibly stated as to give their Lordships nor the Commissioners a right Conception thereof.

We therefore recommend that that address be again inspected that wherein we have heretofore come short of an ample State of that matter it may be now supplied.

Signed for us - John Beale Esq. Secy. Ho.

Mr. Speaker //

I desire you will acquaint the House that I enclose you a Copy of a Letter from His Majesty's Commissioners of the Customs directed to the Right Honourable the Lords Guilford.

The first part of that Letter contains an Answer to your address of Grievances (in which I had no part) it lies therefore on the Assembly to answer for themselves, but I cannot help remarking I am very ill treated in that Letter on the Representation of a Gentleman who has already been made apparant, by a Member of your House, Mr. Rousby to the Commissioners of the Customs.

This I speak from my own Knowledge having seconded that Gentlemans Remonstrance to them, with Letters to my friends, the success of which is evidently known, I say I am ill treated, when because you complain of grievances to your Country, and occasion is taken from thence to my Character, tho, I thank God, it can be only on Misrepresentation and in General terms, yet the Conclusion of the Commissioners Letter seems to level directly at my Administration in the Chancery Court, for I am no further concerned in the Recovery of the Money and Effects due to his Majesty in this Province, than as a Judge of Equity and for my Conscience I am answerable to my gods alone, and defy the most Envidious of my Premies to make out either partiality or Corruption against me and surely I should have made my Court with a very ill grace to be just and good a King, as his Majesty is, if I should have given up the property of his Subjects, merely because his Name was made use of, by those Employed under him.

This was one Cause why I gave up the Seals, but what otherwise immediately oblig'd me to that resignation is herewith enclosed. For when I found I could no longer maintain the Honour and Dignity of my Station as Chancery Clerk voluntarily and cheerfully.