

Now, may it please your Lordship, We cannot conceive, that any thing prejudicial to our Rights and Liberties, or that can reduce us to a State of Villinage and Slavery can be infer'd from this or any other part of our Conduct, For we were Free-men and English Subjects when we came from England, and we came thence to settle with our Sovereign's leave, and we have done nothing more than his other Subjects to forfeit the Protection of our Sovereign and his Laws, or to dissolve us from our Allegiance to him, or that can be deemed a Breach of it.

The Records of your Lordship's Province will shew, that your Ancestors have consented to Govern, and always did Govern us by those Laws, and till now, we never had our Rights thereto Contested, that we know of. And so, may it please your Lordship, We hope we have proved (tho' much more we have to enforce it) that the Statutes created of, do, and ever did extend here; and that we are no Conquer'd People, but that were we so, our Sovereign by your Lordship's Charter has already granted us his Subjects Privileges.

And agreeable to the constant form of Government used there.

Your Lordship is pleas'd to advise us, in the said Instruction, That if any of the English Statute Laws are found convenient, &c. we ought especially to Re-enact them De Novo.

May it please your Lordship, We can't Re-enact them without your Governour's Assent, nor enjoy them against your Lordship's Dissent; This would be a rendring that precarious which is now (we hope) most assuredly ours, besides, Sir, All the Treasures and present Supports of the Province would not answer so vast an Expencc.

Difficulties of introducing the Statutes by Acts of Assembly.

And the vast Charge.

We humbly hope, your Lordship by so strictly requiring your Governour here to Discountenance any Doubts concerning these Matters, does not in the least intend thereby to Influence or discourage the most inconsiderable of your Tenants from making any attempts to Support our Rights, against what seems to be intended by that Instruction.

For we can with Pleasure declare to the World, That we have so much Confidence in your Lordship's Candour, Ingenuity and Justice, as encourages us to insist with Zeal and Freedom on the maintaining what appears to us, to be our Right, without the least Fear or Doubt of your Lordship's Anger for our doing what your Lordship knows to be so reasonable, nor do we doubt, but that your Lordship will Explode the notions we hereby endeavour to Explode. But should there still remain Doubts, we profess to your Lordship, that what we have now offer'd contains but little in Comparison of what we have to offer, did the Time of this Sessions allow it, or the Case seem to want it.

We hope your Lordship will, on this, and all other occasions, find that your ancient faithful Tenants here, are much better Informers concerning the true State of your Country, than any who perhaps have not been above four or five Years in it, or may be, never knew more of it than by hear say, from such, or from less capable Informers.

What further your Lordship is pleas'd to Recommend, we shall pay a due Regard to.

We humbly pray your Lordship's perusal of some Resolves of this House made last Sessions, relating to these Matters, which we humbly lay before your Lordship.