

Saturday Afternoon, Sept. 4, 1731.

The House met according to Adjournment. The Members were called, and all present at in the Morning. The Bill, entitled, *an Act for laying out the Town anew called Marlborough Town, &c.* was referred to the Consideration of the next Assembly.

The House proceed to Tax the private Bills passed into Laws the last Session, and the private Bills this Session.

Col. Holland, from the Upper House, delivered to Mr. Speaker the Bill, entitled, *an Act for the Relief of Richard Smith, &c.* And the following Message,

By the Upper House of Assembly, 4 Sept. 1731.

Gentlemen,

In Answer to your Message of Yesterday, by Major King and Eleven more, in Relation to the leaving out some Persons enumerated in the Bill for Relief of languishing Prisoners, we are surprized you should expect we should give Reasons for our Resolution therein, when we conceive it neither necessary so to do, nor even the general Practice of your House; which is evident from your rejecting a Petition of Benjamin Hillyard, referred by this House to yours, without shewing any Reasons wherefore; And as we conceive, we cannot at this Time make an exact Scrutiny into the Circumstances of the several Prisoners applying for Relief, and that it would be too severe to continue those in Prison who are real Objects of Compassion, we are contented that Richard Smith, James Mason, and John Norwood, remain in the Bill, and that Richard Symphon, Robert Lynch, John Brooke, Thomas Lewis, William Austin, and Benjamin Hillyard, be added thereto; with which Amendments, the Bill will pass.

Sign'd per Order, J. Rofs, Cl. Up. Ho.

The Bill, entitled, *an Act to continue and aid the Process and Proceedings in the Provincial Court, &c.* was sent to the Upper House by Mr. Crabb and Mr. Hemsley; who return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the same.

John Rousby, Esq; from the Upper House, delivered to Mr. Speaker the following Message, viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly, 4 Sept. 1731.

This House hath nominated John Rousby, Benjamin Tasker, and Philip Lee, Esqrs. to join the Members appointed by your House, on a Conference, as proposed by your Message of this Day, by Major King and Col. Enalls; who are ready to attend immediately.

Sign'd per Order, J. Rofs, Cl. Up. Ho.

Col. Rider, from the Upper House, delivered to Mr. Speaker the Bill, entitled, *An Act for easing sundry Inhabitants of this Province, who are Owners of Vessels, from some Difficulties they are put to, &c.* thus indors'd:

By the Upper House of Assembly, 3 Sept. 1731.

Read the first Time, and Ordered to lie on the Table.

Sign'd per Order, J. Rofs, Cl. Up. Ho.

And thus: Read the Second Time, and will pass, with the following Amendments, viz. In Page 1, Line 3, instead of the Words, *when there shall be no*, insert the Words, *where they live remote from any Naval Officer, or have*; the same Page, Line 8, instead of *Court*, insert *County*; and that the Time of delivering the Certificate of the Magistrate to the Naval Officer, instead of *Two Months*, be *some time before the Clearing of such Vessel*; in Page 2, Line 12, instead of the Word *every*, insert the Word *any*.

Sign'd per Order, J. Rofs, Cl. Up. Ho.

Which Bill was read, and, with the Amendments proposed, pass'd for Ingressing.

Daniel Dulany, Esq; brought in the Address of both Houses to the Governor, ingross'd; which is as followeth:  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY BENEDICT DE ROSSET, GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND. The humble Address of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly.

May it please Your Excellency,

WE have taken into Consideration the Two Queries transmitted by the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, to your Excellency, which You communicated to the Assembly, at the Opening of this Sessions, viz. *What Trade this Province has with any Foreign Plantations, or any Part of Europe, besides Great Britain? How such Trade is carried on? What Commodities the People of this Province send to, or receive from, Foreign Plantations? What the natural Produce of the Country, simple Commodities and Manufactures, besides Tobacco, are? And what Value thereof may be Annually exported?* And beg Leave to observe to Your Excellency, that for Want of an Opportunity to examine the Books and Entries of the Officers of the Customs, We cannot be so particular in our Information to Your Excellency, as You desire, or We wish to be. But in general, We can assure Your Excellency, that We have taken all the Measures we could, to be informed; And that there are but very few Trading Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of this Province, several Counties (of the Twelve whereof the Province consists) having not One Trading Vessel belonging to them. That We could not learn, that more than One small Vessel has gone from this Province, (belonging to the Inhabitants thereof) to any of the Foreign Sugar Plantations; a few Vessels have gone to *Madeira*, and other of the *Portuguese* Islands, sometimes One or Two, sometimes Three in a Year, and for several Years none.

This Province has very little Trade with any Part of *Europe*, besides *Great Britain*, and that confined to a few Voiages by Three or Four small Vessels in several Years past to *Lisbon*, which carried Grain and Lumber thither.

All the Commodities ever Exported to, and Imported from, any of the Foreign Plantations, belonging to the *French* and *Dutch*, by the Inhabitants of this Province, that We could learn, has only been the Lading of the small Vessel already mentioned, which carried Lumber and Provisions, and brought back Mellosses; save that sometimes, when Vessels have been disappointed of their Lading in his Majesty's Colonies, they have taken in some Salt in the said Foreign Plantations.

The Trade to *Madeira*, and other *Portuguese* Islands, has been more considerable; Sometimes One small Vessel, and sometimes Two or Three, but never more that we could learn (belonging to this Province) have gone thither in a Year: Which Vessels have carried Wheat, Indian Corn, and other Provisions, and Graves; and brought back *Madeira* and other Wines, of the Produce of those Islands, and Salt.

As to Vessels belonging to other Parts of his Majesty's Dominions, whose Ladings are purchased in this Province, we cannot give any Account of them.

The Climate here is moderate, and the Soil productive of all Sorts of Grain, and many Sorts of Fruit, and has great Quantities of valuable Timber; and, in many Places, good Pasturage; and the Rivers and Bay full of great Variety of Fish, especially Herrings. But the Inhabitants, ever since the first Settlement of this Country, have applied themselves principally to the making Tobacco, which is our only Staple, neglecting Manufactures & Tillage, when Tobacco has been valuable, the Produce of that Comodity alone, being then sufficient to supply the People with Cloathing, & other Necessaries, in great Plenty, from *Great-Britain*, with an Overplus in Money, which has always been lodged there, not only as the securest, but the most advantageous Repository, whence the People could be supplied with every Thing for their own Use, or for Traffick; hence it has happened that the People have received very little Advantage from a moderate Climate and a fertile and fruitful Soil, besides Provisions, and the Produce