

Friday Morning, May 25, 1744.

THE House met according to Adjournment, &c.

The Bill, entituled, *An Act for Punishment of Horse-Stealers and other Offenders*, was Read, and, with the Amendments proposed, passed for Ingrossing.

Capt. *David Wilson*, a Member returned to serve for *Somerset County*, appeared in the House. Ordered, That Col. *King* and Col. *Gale* go to the Upper House, to see him qualified: They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker they saw him qualified in the usual Manner, by taking the Oaths to the Government, &c.

The Gentleman took his Seat in the House.

Mr. Speaker communicates to the House the following Message communicated to him, *viz.*

*Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,*

AS the latest Advices from *England* leave us very little, if any, room to doubt of a *French War*, I once more recommend to you a Provision for Arms and Ammunition for the necessary Defence of the Province, and hope you will give it in such a Way, that the Government may with Honour accept it: The Offer of it in any other Manner will be only a mispending of Time, and cannot possibly conceal a manifest Resolution in you, notwithstanding your Professions to the contrary, to leave this Country destitute of the Means to protect itself at this dangerous and critical Juncture.

I don't find that you have yet had any Regard to my Recommendation of a Militia Law, which I think very extraordinary, considering the necessity of it.

T. BLADEN.

Mr. *John Courts*, a Member returned to serve for *Charles County*, appeared in the House. Ordered, That Mr. *Smallwood* and Mr. *Wm. Wilkinson* go to the Upper House to see him Qualified: They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker they saw him qualified in the usual manner, by taking the several Oaths to the Government, &c.

The Gentleman took his Seat in the House.

Mr. *Magruder*, from the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice, delivers Mr. Speaker the following Report, *viz.*

*By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice, May 25, 1744.*

YOUR Committee have viewed the following Offices, *viz.* The Clerk's Office of the House of Delegates, and find the following Books, containing the Journals of Assembly, for the Years respectively mentioned, in bound Books, one of which wants new Binding, *viz.* One Book of Journals, beginning *September* the Twentieth, Sixteen Hundred and Ninety-three, and ending *May* the Fourteenth, Sixteen Hundred and Ninety-six; one other Book of Journals, beginning *December* the Sixth, Seventeen Hundred and Four, and ending *November* the Fourteenth, Seventeen Hundred and Thirteen; one other Book of Journals, beginning *June* the Twenty-second, Seventeen Hundred and Fourteen, and ending *November* the Third, Seventeen Hundred and Twenty-two; one other Book of Journals, beginning *September* the Twenty-third, Seventeen Hundred and Twenty-three, and ending *October* the Thirtieth, Seventeen Hundred and Twenty-seven; one other Book of Journals, beginning *October* the

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