

Power for their Relief, and earnestly hope, that the Bill, just prepared by us, and sent to the Upper House, will meet with Concurrence, and sufficiently provide for repelling the daring Attempts that may be expected from the Enemy. We shall immediately proceed to take under our Consideration the Condition of the late Inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia* sent into this Province, and endeavour to fix on some Expedient for their Relief, and to prevent their leaving the Counties into which they have been distributed, and to punish such as may be discovered on the Frontier of the Province.

Which was read and assented to, and signed, by Order of the House, by the Honourable Speaker.

Ordered, That *Philip Hammond*, Esq; and Major *Hall*, do acquaint his Excellency, That this House hath prepared an Address, to be presented to him, and desires to know when and where he will be pleased to receive it: They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker that the Governor was pleased to signify he would receive the Address immediately in the Conference Chamber.

Ordered, That Major *Travers*, with Three more, do present the Address to the Governor.  
The House adjourns until the Morrow Morning at VIII of the Clock.

SATURDAY MORNING, April 24, 1756.

THE House met according to Adjournment, &c.

The Bill entituled, *An Act for Quieting the Differences that have arisen, and may hereafter arise, between the Inhabitants of this Province and the several Indian Nations, &c.* was read the second Time, and will pass; and was sent to the Upper House by Capt. *Stoddert* and Major *Hynson*.

Col. *Tilghman*, from the Committee of Laws, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a Bill entituled, *An Act continuing an Act entituled, An Act directing the Manner of punishing Fornication and Adultery before a single Justice of the Peace out of Court*; and a Bill entituled, *An Act continuing an Act entituled, An Act for the speedy and effectual Publication of the Laws of this Province, and for the Encouragement of Jonas Green, of the City of Annapolis, Printer*; which Bills were severally read the first Time, and ordered to lie on the Table.

His Excellency the Governor communicates to Mr. Speaker the following Message, viz.

“Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

“I AM sorry to find by your Address of the 16th, that the Answer I returned to your last on this Subject, did not give you entire Satisfaction, and to hear you still complaining of those Acts of Benevolence and Lenity, which I little thought, at the Time they were done, would be so much excepted against by you or your Constituents. As the first or historical Part of your Address relates to Matters that occurred long before I had the Honour to be known in this Province, I hope it is not expected that I should particularly Answer it, or be accountable for the Transactions of those Days; but what appears to be a more reasonable Task, I desire not to be excused from, and shall cheerfully undertake to vindicate and justify, as well as I am able, my own Conduct.

“To begin then with the Affair of the Criminal in *St. Mary's* County, which, according to your minute Detail, was thus: He had, by repeated Acts of Villainy, rendered himself so obnoxious to the People among whom he lived, that when he fled from Justice, a Contribution was made, and a Reward offered, by the Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood for apprehending him: Upon his Conviction, the Principal of these Gentlemen were in vain applied to, and desired to solicit his Pardon: Afterwards the Criminal changed his Religion, and then those, or some of those very Gentlemen, who had before declined soliciting his Pardon, petitioned me to grant a Reprieve, without acquainting me with the Circumstance of his being a Convert to the Church of Rome, and that he was thereby become Guilty of High-Treason; which, it should seem, in your Opinion, clearly shews, that the unhappy Wretch did, upon the Merit of becoming a Profelyte to the Popish Religion, obtain the Reprieve, the Benefit of which he now enjoys; and that therefore, I suppose, I ought to suspect the Loyalty of those who recommended him for Mercy, tho' they had, on all Occasions before, shewn the firmest Attachment to his Majesty, and Zeal for the Protestant Religion.

“That the Gentlemen you allude to should offer a Reward for apprehending a Felon, whom they desired to have brought to Justice, does not seem at all strange; and perhaps you would have thought, that, from their making Application afterwards in the same Person's Favour, no Conclusion ought to be drawn to their Prejudice, if you had recollected or heard, that in 1739 the Honourable the Speaker, and most of the House of Delegates, waited on his Excellency the late Governor, to solicit and obtain a Pardon for