

THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S
ANSWER
 TO HIS
EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE have observed the Progress of your EXCELLENCY'S Government, and gratefully acknowledge your sincere endeavours for the good of his MAJESTY'S Lige People in this Province; And without any jealousies assure our selves the same for the future. We are extremely satisfic'd to have your Excellency acknowledge our Actions in the last Sessions to have been to your satisfaction. We assure your Excellency we are come again with the same Candid and Honest Resolution, inviolably to maintain the same good agreement, and right understanding, which hath hitherto been betwixt us; And confess have had convincing proofs of your Excellency's regard for the Province in general, and every one of us in particular.

We thankfully acknowledge your Excellency hath managed the affairs of this Province with the least charge, and expence that could be. Your Government hath been discreet, just, easy, and most acceptable to us all; and if any difficulties come upon this Province and us, we will never seditiously, factiously, nor with anger and reflections secretly murmur and grumble, But with upright and honest hearts, according to our duty, with Candour and Freedom in proper place, will represent such grievances to your Excellency, being intirely confident of your Excellency's Redress, and in the mean time we have no apprehension that any difficulty will be to us by your Excellency's procurement.

THE Glory of GOD. And the Advancement of this his Majesty's Province, and good Correspondency with our neighbouring Colonys shall be our endeavours. And if his Majesty hath been pleased to Repeal the present Act for establishing the Protestant Religion, yet will we not be discouraged, but endeavour by your Excellency's Conduct, to adjust matters so agreeable to his Majesties Pleasure, and the general satisfaction of this Province; that we hope his Majesty, will at length by Law establish Religion amongst us according to the Church of England; that our Children and Posterity being preserved in the unity of the Church, from Faction and Schism, in Honesty and Charity, may become good and sober Men loving Virtue, hating Vice, the rational consequence of true Christian Doctrine, which God preserve amongst us. We never had the least apprehension of his Majesties obstructing our Liberty, and we have a sufficient assurance of his Royal Achievements for the preservation of it. If it be at any time unjustly obstructed, we are assured that such obstruction proceeds not from his Majesty, the whole course of whose Government proclaims his Goodness to his Subjects, neither have we any fear of your Excellencies perverting his Majesties Instructions. We acknowledge you have well represented his Majesties Clemency, and discreetly managed the Prerogative, & are truly sensible of our own happiness under your Excellencies Government, of which we heartily wish the continuance.

ABOUT the affairs that may happen to be considered of this Sessions, since your Excellency leaves it to us, we shall be willing to proceed in the usual ways of Conference and Message, and desire to decline all strife and contention without any jealousie or suspicion, with one heart to promote his Majesties Service, from which the true Interest of this Province cannot be separate.

By His Excellency the Governour and Council in Assembly, *April the 27th. 1700.*

Gentlemen, **Y**OU having not onely ingeniously, but so candidly express yourselves in answer to what his Excellency was yesterday pleased to say to you, (which is here very kindly received) this Board cannot have any apprehensions, but that you will cheerfully exert your utmost endeavours this Session, to approve your selves worthy of the honor and happiness you have to profess your selves good Christians, and his Majesties faithful Subjects; and therein first to consult the Honour and Glory of GOD.

Whereupon his Excellency is pleased to recommend to your consideration, his most Sacred Majesties Order in Council herewith sent you, and that you would apply your selves to concert such rules and measures, as may best establish, and secure to you, and your posterities, your Religion, (which at present by the said order seems to be altogether unhinged) and make such reasonable Laws therefore, as may not meet the least objection in passing his Majesties Royal Assent.

Licensed by Order of the House of Delegates.

Tho: Smithson SPEAKER.