

Clauses that in prudence we cannot as yet with safety to our- Liber M C
selves and our Posterity (being they are to be perpetual) concur
to the enacting of them as Laws requiring a far more serious
and longer discussion of them then at this time we are able to p. 346
allow thereunto for the necessary employment we are forced
upon in a Crop at this time of the year most of us having no
other means of subsistance than the same Besides your
Honours directions being such as that none of the said Laws
are to be recorded by us and enacted by the Lieutenant General
in your Lordships name without the whole Body should be
Received by us without alteration addition or dimution to it
in a serious Perusal whereof we find in several Parts of it such
things as are not Convenient or as we Conceive it just to Pass
and so in that Respect have thought it most prudentiall not to
meddle at all with the foresaid Body of Laws but to Reflect
only on such things as may give your Honour for the present
most satisfaction and Comply most (to the utmost of our weak
Capacity and present poor Condition) with what we Conceive
your Honour most to point and aim at which if we do not
mistake are Chiefly four viz^t that the Country may be preserved
with Peace and defended and Governed with Justice 2^{dly} that
some Competent Support may be raised to your Lordship of
the same and your Lieu^t here 3^{dly} That a stock of Cattle may
be raised again for your Lordship and lastly that all should be
satisfied who had concurred to the Regain^s and Conserving of
the Country in Compliance with all which we have first
chosen and selected out of all your Lordships Laws such as
seemed to us most Conducing to Confirm a long desired and
settled peace among us and have further added such others
of our own as we conceive to be most necessary and best
Suitable to our present Condition and towards a future
support out of this Colony to your Lordship we have with
all Loyal Expressions of our hearty well wishes to your honour p. 347
so far as the present weak and poor Condition of this Colony
is capable of passed our Consent to a Law that your Lordship
and your heirs for seven years shall have a Custom of 10^t
tobacco upon every hhd of Tobacco laden upon any dutch
Vessel to be exported out of this Province so that your Lord-
ship will Graciously be pleased that the one half thereof may
Yearly be Employed towards the satisfying of all Just Claims
touching the Recovery and defence of your Lordships Province
as shall be brought in and made appear here in the Secretarys
Office before the last of March next until they shall be fully
discharged and by this your Lordships friends also in a short
time we hope and verily Believe will be Complied with to a
Great deal of Comfort and Satisfaction on all Parts and lastly
we have also Enacted by a Law that an Assessment shall be
laid upon all the Inhabitants of this Province to raise within