

P. R. O. desire to know what Law of England, or this Province I have
Colonial violated.
Papers.

By all that I have either read, heard or understood, all officers both military and civill, first have their Commissions publickly read, and then expect to be obeyed in their severall stations, and noe otherwise, for if he that hath a Commission for the peace, only should take upon him to command an army, or a Generall of an Army, because he is such, should assume the Bench, and take the place of one of the twelve Judges, I doe believe small obedience would be used or shewn to their commands, and they must severely answer for the same to the King.

I desire to know what lawes I have broaken, and by what power I am thus taken, and kept a close prisoner.

To the best of my remembrance, it was in the reigne of King Charles the first of blessed memory, when an Act of Parliament was made to put downe the Court of Starr Chamber, for that they vexed and greeved the people, contrary to the Grand Charter, Where it is sett forth at large the priviledges belonging to an Englishman, and that none shall be taken or imprisoned, but by writt originall, & matter of record, and shall be heard before Justices, (which I take to be men in lawfull Comiss:) and the Judgement shall be according to the common course of the Law, & the old lawes of the Land. Should the Lord High Chancellor of England, temporal Lord, Bishop or any person whatsoever, molest any of His Majesty's Subjects, in Body or Estate, contrary to that law (as I doe conceive I now am) such person so offending shall for the first offence, forfeit 500. pounds good and lawfull money of England, to the party grieved, his Executors or Admin^{rs} which shall sue for the same, as I am an Englishman, fear cannot soe much drown'd my reason, as to make me believe I am this day bound to obey the man which is only in hopes to morrow, to have a Commission to act in that spheere.

Wee are all satisfied that the Lord Baltemore had good right to the Proprietaryshipp of this Province, nor doe we know that it is anywaies taken from him, if he or his officers shall presume to act longer then they have just power, they must answer for it, and I am apt to believe in such case, the Lord Baltemore will first be called upon, and then his severall Officers, to answer according to their severall Offences. Which I doubt not their sacred Majesties will cause to be truly examined into and whenever there shall come a lawfull power from England either by some person sent from thence or a Comission to some Gentleman or gentlemen that are in this Country I shall be as just and faithfull to support the government to the best of my ability as any man.