

We are informed by the averm^t of M^r Speaker and M^r L. H. J. Hatton that the said John Cood hath formerly exercised the Priests office at S^t Georges in S^t Mary's County by a considerable tyme preached to them in a Church built there for that purpose, and during that tyme administring the Sacrament of Baptisme to Infants and joyning people in Marriage which they both affirme upon their own knowledge and that the said Cood did receive for such ministeriall function the Subscriptions or Guifts of severall persons Inhabitants of the same place.

And M^r Speaker says and affirms that the said Cood several tymes affirmed and owned to him that he had holy orders and was Ordained by the Bishop of Exeter, and to the best of his Remembrance hath seen the Orders but is not positive.

We find by Information and of our own knowledge that the said Cood has for many years past received and exercised severall Judiciall and ministeriall offices in this province such as Justice of Peace, Capt., Colonel, Lieut Col: &c.

We can see that John Cood has been divested or degraded therefore it is debated in this Comittee being employed and exercising such Judiciall offices be a discharge of such holy function, as well as the use of votes in the negative viz.

That the said Cood accepting and exercising such Judiciall and Ministeriall offices doth not discharge him from such holy ffunction; so that upon the whole matter it appearing to the Comittee, that the said Cood hath received holy orders and never been divested or degraded thereof by the same Authority that conferred them, and that no person in holy Orders according to the law of England can sitt in Parliament (or consequently in Assembly) by reason of being or belonging to any other Body (with Submission to the better Judgement of the house) The Major parte of this Comittee are of opinion that the said John Cood doth belong to another Body, and is not qualified to sett in this Assembly as a Burgess.

John Hammond Chairman

Put to the Question if the house do concurr with the Reporte of the Comittee in regard to Col. Cood's not being quallified to sitt as a member of the house, And carried by Majority of voices in the negative, and that the said Col Cood is legally qualified

Col: Cood offers to take all such Oaths as may be lawfully imposed upon any member of this house.

Resolved the following Message be sent to the hon^{ble} his Ma^{ty}s Councill.