

of me and will employ my Efforts to be useful in my Administration L. H. J.  
Lib. 41

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1714

Jo. Hart

Ordered That the following be returned as an Answer to the Instructions referred to in his Excys Speech Viz.

By the House of Delegates  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 1714

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May it please your Excy,

We the Delegates of this Province now convened in a general Assembly having taken into Consideration the Instructions to which your Excys Speech at the Opening of this Sessions refers do with unfeigned Hearts return your Excy our hearty Thanks for the Zeal and religious Care you express for the Support and Observance of our Religion as by Law established which we humbly are of Opinion is provided for as far as our Circumstances will admit by several Acts of Assembly of this Province and more particularly by an Act entituled an Act for the Service of Almighty God and Establishment of Religion in this Province according to the Church of England &c<sup>a</sup> We also beg Leave to acquaint your Excy that we are humbly of Opinion that there are sufficient Laws already provided for the Punishment and Discouragement of all Drunkenness, Debauchery, Swearing and Blasphemy if put in due Execution by the several Majestrates of this Province And we assure your Excy this House will at all Times be very thankful to your Excy if upon just Complaint you do remove any Justice of Peace that shall fail in his Duty therein or commit any Breach of them, and are assured that your Excy's Declaration thereon and good Example (of which we cannot nor have the least Grounds to doubt) will very much tend to effect what your Excy and we so much desire.

We likewise are with Submission to acquaint your Excy that (sincerely acknowledging the most Princely and tender Regard Mercy and Moderation of her Majesty towards all her Subjects and all others seeking Refuge in her Kingdoms and Dominions) there is a Law already made for restraining Severities to Servants by Masters or Overseers which is entituled an Act relating to Servants and Slaves whereby the Justices of the Provi or County Courts of this Province are empowered in a summary Manner to hear and determine Complaints between Masters and Servants by Way of Petition to give Judgment and award Execution; but we intend to inspect into the same and if we find or are informed by your Excy that it is any ways deficient shall revise and amend it.