

we shall gladly fall in with it, if not we pray the Bill may L. H. J. pass as it is in favour of the Masters property, the Servants Liberty, and the Securing the Publick Peace.

Sign'd p Order Mich: Jenifer Cl. Lo: Ho:

Which was sent to the Upper House by Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrison and M<sup>r</sup> Johnson. They Return and Say they delivered it.

The further Address of this House to his Honour the Governour was Read and Approved of and ordered to be Entered as follows viz.

To the Hono<sup>ble</sup> the Lieutenant Governour

The further Address of the House of Delegates  
May it please Your Honour.

It is Indeed Certain and Apparent to us that Many of those Statutes not Restrained by Words of Locall Limitation would be prejudiciall to us were they to be Executed here, and that many of them are of great use and Benefit as Your Honour most justly Remarks, and that it has been the Practice ever since the first Settling of the Province for the Judges here to try and determine by those Statutes (as well as other the Laws we are governed by) they being Subject to the like Rules of Common Law or Equitable Construction as are used by the Judges in Construing Statutes in England which has been the Method hitherto approved of, And therefore we have not attempted any Alteration and we hope your Honour Intends none p. 62

The Oath of Judge Your Honour seems to Misconstrue. It does not tie the hands of the Judges to Judge according to the Statutes of England without Exception but according to the Usage and Constitution of this Province, and what that Usage is Your Honour Seems well Informed And that it hath been hitherto generally Approved And therefore hope your Honour will decline all thoughts of Altering a Course of Judicature so Long and Successfully Experienced which leaves no Room for the Inconveniencies Your Honour Mentions from the petulancy of Attorneys or other Cause, but we begg your Honour to Excuse us from attempting to Re-enact any Statutes that we already have a Right to, for that as his Lordship is pleasd to Remark in his Speech to us, Such an Attempt would Shew plainly those Statutes were not lookt on as Laws of the Country without a Law of our own to enforce them. We think it our duty to decline giving the Least Umbrage for such an Argument from any proceedings of ours, and hope Your Honour will not blame us for our doing so, nor