

L. H. J. thereof on the people together with the building a court house, which now God be thanked is near finished and quite paid for, together with all the publique Debts, and the Country in a small tyme likely to have something in Bancke. And we do declare that the mony that has been raised has been duly applyed to the uses it was raised for viz: for and towards building the Court house, church and Free Schole, which we conceive to be for the Service of God his Ma<sup>ty</sup> and good of the Country. And that we hope the Country being clear of Debt and all things settled upon good foundations there will be no occasion of calling another Assembly this twelve months; which his Ex<sup>cy</sup> assures us he will not convene nor call together, without an absolute necessity.

Signed p Ord<sup>r</sup> W Bladen Clk. Assembly.

Major Dent and the rest of the members returne and say they have Delivered their Message, And that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> recomends that in the said Ordinance it be incerted that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> never call any Assemblys but upon Absolute occasion, nor ever make use of the Countys mony, but that the mony that is now paid is what he lent the Country without any Interest.

Resolved the following Message be sent to his Ex<sup>cy</sup>

By the house of Burgesses Octob: the 2<sup>d</sup> 1696.

The house understand by the Messengers last sent, that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> is not Satisfied with our last Message, under an apprehension that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> lyes under an ill Imputation of receiving the Countrys mony, because some idle persons without reason and contrary to truth may have lett fall such expressions.

We are sorry his Ex<sup>cy</sup> should so apprehend us, and therefore to clear ourselves to the whole Province whome we represent. We do hereby publish and declare with one Consent that at all tymes we have found his Ex<sup>cy</sup> free from the least tendency that way. That he has always treated us with justice and honour, not considering so much his own as our good, and never either required or used any of the Countrys mony, but on the Contrary hath several tymes lent us mony of his owne, and received nothing but the principle again, and the money that his Ex<sup>cy</sup> has now received from us is no more then what he has Lent us and layne a considerable tyme out of.

And this we Sincerely declare and desire it may be accepted of from us.

Signed p order W. Bladen Clk: of Assembly.