

Tuesday 14th December 1708

L. H. J.

The House met according to Adjournment. Being called over were present as yesterday. Read was done Yesterday

The Message last Night by Col^o Greenfield and Philip Lynes Esq. Read and Ordered the following Message be prepared in Answer thereto.

By the House of Delegates 14th 1708

In Answer to your Message by Col^o Greenfield and Philip Lynes Esq. Yesterday intimating that this House had misrecited his Excellency's Order in Council concerning the Admission of Attorneys &^{ca} This House did not recite the said Order and are satisfied that there is a Saving to all such who had ever been of the Inns of Court or Chancery &^{ta} And notwithstanding such Saving are of Opinion it's an Aggrievance; and altho' this House are not so well acquainted with the Practice of the Courts in Great Britain yet they are well satisfied the Serjeants at Law are called by the Queen's Writ and that the Attorneys are never sworn or admitted by any Masters or Prothonotary of any Court without the Knowledge or Consent of the Justices of those Courts and altho' the Infancy of this Province cannot in some Persons Opinion plead Prescription, yet it appears to this House that ever since the Seating the Province no Attorney has been admitted without the Consent of the Courts and by them silenced if Occasion required and the contrary Practice is an Aggrievance to the whole Province And the House desire the Honble Council not to construe their Message as if they were Suitors for any practicular Person but for the whole Province in General and the Lives and Fortunes of the present Inhabitants thereof, and their Posterity, and therefore move the Honble Council to concur with the Bill proposed for settling the same. As to the other Part relating to the Merchants selling Goods at Towns this House did not, by their Message desire any Prosecution for any Offence past against the Act for Towns but only inform the Honble Council what Constructions were put on their Proceedings in the Country and represented to this House as an Aggrievance and hope the same will be prevented for the future

Signed p Order Rich^d Dallam Cl. Ho. Del.

Resolved That the Act for the Encouragement of Tillage and Relief of poor Debtors be revived for three Years or to the End of the next Session of Assembly which shall first happen