

towards God is that of breaking the Sabbath by labouring and doing work therein not of necessity to be done as also by Idle spending and passing that Day in Drinking tippling Gaming & all which unchristian practices will I hope by the prudent care of this Assembly be prevented as will also I hope all other publick and Scandalous Crimes now most in Mode amongst the People, Thus having in the first place gone through these things which relate to our Duty in reference to God, It will then become the Duty of this honourable Assembly to proceed on the second part which is that we duly Consider of all such matters as by the Providence of God shall offer in Reference.

To Our Sovereign Lord the King

Kings Gentlemen are the Lords Anointed and are by God appointed over us to Rule and /next under God/ the King we are bound to fear and honour for that it is said fear thou the Lord and the King, and again fear God and honour the King, for that a Divine Sentence is in the Lips of the King, and the King by Judgment Establisheth the Law, and his Mouth Transgresseth not in Judgment, and the Kings Commands We are by the Laws of God bound to keep, for that it is said keep the Kings Commandment and that in regard of the Oath of God, for who so keepeth the Commandment of the King shall feel no evil thing, The King (Gentlemen) by his Order in Council bearing Date the fourth Day of November 1687 hath required of Us that we with Virginia pass an Act prohibiting Bulk Tobacco to be Exported out of this Province. &c. This Order (Gentlemen) should have been here sooner, but by some Neglect or other of the Clerk in England it came not to my Lords hands in time, so as to have been sent by the last years Shipping, But sooner or later the King is and ought to be Obedged Some perhaps will presume to question the Advantage or Disadvantage that may arise by passing of such an Act which is indeed unbecoming Subjects to call in Question the proceedings of the King, as if the good and evil which thereby might or could arise were not fully and duly Considered of in England by the Kings most honourable Council from whom and by whose Advice that Order did proceed, But such is the Levity of some, as always to treat with dislike, the best of things even proceeding from the best of Kings, & best of Governments, and that for no other reason but because it came from the King.

Gentlemen I hope the ill advised proceedings of a late Neighbouring Assembly on this Occasion will be no president or of force to weigh with you But as Men of better principles you will shew that in Allegiance and Loyalty to your King you know better to Obey I say you will know better for that it is Obvious to every Man of Sense that they were Strangers to their Duty in as much as they ought to know, that, Mercy and truth preserve the King, and that in the Sight of the Kings Countenance is Life, and also that the Wrath of a King is as Messengers of Death and shall he who so provoketh the King Anger sinneth against his own Soul and who knows what Just Resentment the King may have of such as well Unlawfull as Disloyall practices.

Therefore Gentlemen I am of Opinion that if it will become as Allegiance of this Assembly to pass this Act so as it may not be Binding to the People of this Province till the same be also done and pass in Virginia, and on other terms the King desires it not for that it can be of no advantage so to the King.