

by His Ex^{ty}. the Gov^r. Council and the House of Burgesses of this Gov^t. Assembly, that when His Ex^{ty}. came first in this Province the publique was much in arrears to severall persons both in Money and Tob^o. which did moderate in effect by calling Assemblys the laying some duty upon Merchandize to pay off publique debts rather than lay the tax then 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 County in a small time likely to have something in Bank. And we do declare that the (Money) that has been raised has been duly & applied to the uses it was raised for (viz^t. for and towards building the Court House, Church and Free School, which we conceive to be for the service of Gods his (Maj^{ty} and goods of the County). And that we hope the County 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^{ty}. assures us he will not convene nor call together, without an absolute necessity.

Signed for H^{is} M^{aj}ty W^m Bladen Clk. of Assembly.

Major Dent and the rest of the Members returne and say they have delivered their Message. And that His Ex^{ty}. recommends that in the said Ordinance it be inserted that His Ex^{ty}. never call any Assembly but upon absolute occasion, nor ever make use of the Countys (Money), but that the (Money), that is now paid is what he lent the County without any Interest.

Resolved the following Message be sent to His Ex^{ty}.

By the House of Burgesses Octob^r. the 2^d. 1696.

The House understand by the Messengers last sent, that His Ex^{ty}. is not Satisfied with our last Message, under an apprehension that His Ex^{ty}. lies under an ill Imputation of receiving of Countys (Money), because some idle persons without reason and contrary to truth may have let fall such aspersions.

We are sorry His Ex^{ty}. 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^{ty}. 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 goods, and never either required or used any of the Countys (Money), but on the contrary hath severall tymes lent us Money of his own, and received nothing but the principle again, And the (Money) that His Ex^{ty}. has now received from us is no more then what he has lent us and layne a considerable tyne out of. And thus we sincerely declare and desire it may be accepted of from us.

Signed for H^{is} M^{aj}ty W^m Bladen Clk. of Assembly.