

to increase the fees of the officers; and are of opinion, that if those of the Council, and Judges of the Court of this province, more for the advantage of service; and the good of the province. We also humbly pray, that you will permit the legislative council, and of the supreme court, to determine and settle the taxed articles, for every subsequent

er dutiful, loyal, and of Assembly would unhappy times presume own grievances, or particular privileges, lest they were meant to be just duty and allegiance acknowledged; but, as the of our King and may we not respectfully measures which may preserve the inhabitants in loyalty and allegiance we are not at this time as to raise a support of the interior of this province, a present plan established and which seems abhorrent for the dignity of country whose particular advantages are such as induce Government to head quarters of the sea forces in America, may be unable wholly to get necessary civil to set apart a purpose, which will not with the opulence and inhabitants, and will in parent state from the of our supporters. Our will not prevent and Parliament from relieving us, when usual subjects, and with this countenance, we only beg our gracious King and the measures which should best tend to the of this country. We most humbly pray, that your opinion, that no province may ever be appointed

anted a Governor or Lieutenant, in this province; the number of assent individuals in the province to acquire governments, have faction and parties, subversive of the peace and happiness of the people, and of the province, and the honor of Government. Probably the disputes in America may have been promoted by this cause.

We are humbly of opinion, that members of the legislative council should be appointed for life, and that no person should be appointed a member of the council unless he be possessed of landed property in the province of the value of one thousand pounds at least; and we most humbly pray, that no collector or under officer of the customs, or any officer who is directly concerned in the collection of the provincial revenue, may ever be appointed to a seat at the council board. We humbly pray, most fervently, that the officers of the customs, and any officer concerned in collecting the provincial revenue, may be prohibited from serving as representatives in General Assembly.

We humbly pray that the elections of the representatives of the people be triennial, may be by ballot, that the day of election triennially be fixed by law, and that every officer of government be particularly prohibited from interfering in elections by severe and heavy penalties.

We humbly pray that the judges of the supreme court of this province have their commissions during good behaviour, in the same manner as in England.

We humbly pray that after the expiration of the present judges, that all new judges may be appointed in England, and may not be natives of the province; we can trace the present unhappy disorders in America to the want of a regulation of this kind.

We humbly request your Majesty graciously permit the legislature of the province to ascertain the number and boundaries of the several counties in the province.

Most gracious King, grant and give us a sheriff in each and every county, and deliver us from a provost marshal, presiding over this whole province, whose influence, owing to the nature of his office and the number of his deputies, must be excessive, and whose power in elections is absolute, and which we are not relieved in this particular

we can have no pretensions even to the name of freemen.

"We humbly pray that your Majesty will graciously permit and order, that a recorder of deeds and conveyances be appointed in each and every county, and not a deputy to a principal residing elsewhere.

"Our gracious King cannot be insensible of the great necessity there is that the most respectable persons in the community be appointed to the commissions of the peace; legal authority unless aided by the good opinion of the people, can have but little effect; probably the reason why the most respectable persons decline the office, is because they are liable to be dismissed unheard, the want of power in the magistrates to execute or enforce the laws has been a general complaint in America.

"We humbly pray that the governor, council and judges of the supreme court may constitute a court of vice admiralty throughout the province, to determine all causes cognizable in such courts, agreeable to law and equity, and to receive no fees therefor.

"We humbly pray that any two or more of the judges of the supreme court, and a jury balloted for and struck by the parties, shall constitute a court of equity in all civil cases throughout this province, subject only to appeals to his Majesty in council, where the property contested may amount to five hundred pounds sterling or upwards.

"We humbly pray to be delivered from the oppression of practitioners in the law, and pray that in all civil actions their fees, charges, and perquisites may be limited to five per cent on all sums declared for or defended; it is not the desire of our good King to have his quiet and inoffensive subjects in this quarter of the globe given up to be persecuted by a few rapacious men.

"Most benign King, your Majesty was graciously pleased to grant a trade of land in this province, upon various conditions of settlement and payment of quit-rents. Many of the conditions of settlement were impracticable, and others so expensive that the grantees were not able fully to effect them. We humbly pray to be exonerated from those severe conditions, and that you will graciously limit the power of the court of exchequer to demand the payment of the quit-rent only.

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