

tender the Oath to some of them, there being no saving in the said Act for the people so called, neither were those to whom the Oath was tendered the most considerable men in the County, we are confident that the Governour had no views to the Election when he appointed M<sup>r</sup> Cooper, there being no appearance of Contest or opposition at that time, and M<sup>r</sup> Forster who afterwards was set up by his friends, is likewise well known to us; he has been for a long time Clerk of that County, he has taken the Oaths to the late and present King, and is a man of a very good Character, and we presume that his Excies character is so well known to Your Grace, that you will give no credit to so foul an aspersion.

27. 28. 29. 30. For answer to these Articles we desire leave to inform Y<sup>r</sup> Grace that in this whole transaction his Excy took no one step but by the unanimous advice of Council. We are well advised and assured of the distress which those people were in, and we have long been fully informed of the scarcity in Canada, from whence they were to expect their supply. Your Grace will we hope please to observe the wicked Method of these accumulated accusations, and that even while his Excy was acting up to the Treaty subsisting between the two Crowns, and doing an Act of the greatest compassion and humanity, this Man is breaking through all the ties and obligations of duty and regard, in order to destroy his great and worthy character.

May it please Your Grace, since we enter'd upon this Affair the Post [from Boston] is arrived, and brings advice that the French Sloop above mentioned has been seen of Martha's Vineyard, and since she was laden in this place, they have advice at Boston that unless the provisions so put on board here do arrive safe at Cape Breton, the people there must perish.

31. 32. 33. 34. May it please Your Grace, upon considering these Articles, we sent for the Officers of the two Independent Companys garrison'd in this place, to witt Captain Richard Riggs, Andrew Nicholls Captain Lieutenant of His Excy's Company, George Ingoldsby and Timothy Bayley,<sup>1</sup> Lieutenants. Captain Riggs offered to depose upon Oath that his Company was now full and full clothed, and that the Cloathing was as good as ever he remembered it to be. Capt<sup>a</sup> Nicholls made the same tender, and declared that his Excy had the last winter, over and above the usual cloathing, given Surtout Coats to both Companys, out of his own Bounty, the winter being exceedingly severe, and this, a generosity which they had never known before. M<sup>r</sup> Ingoldsby and M<sup>r</sup> Bayley<sup>1</sup> confirmed the same. The other two Companys, being at Albany, and as we have never heard of any complaints made from thence, we doubt not but they are in the same state.

May it please Your Grace to forgive that we have now detained your Lordship too long, upon an affair which is in its nature to us astonishing beyond measure; we have been, while we traced M<sup>r</sup> Van Dam through a labyrinth of detestable falsehoods, very often at a loss how to beleive that a Man of his years co'd forge so many and so notorious scandalls, but we are to inform Your Grace that the resentment malice and revenge of some of the wickedest of men, are thrown in to his assistance. No Government or Administration can please those restless minds. Nothing will satisfy them, but that power which they joyfully wo'd exercise, to the destruction or ruin of their fellow subjects. We beg Your Lordship to be assured that we know and daily are made more sensible of our happiness under his Excellency's Administration. We know that the people are so too; yet we see how impossible it is to

<sup>1</sup>Timothy Bagley succeeded Thomas Garland as Lieutenant of Captain Riggs' Company of Foot, 26th of August, 1725. *Commissions* 111, 275. The same volume contains a License, dated 12th February, 1720, to Major Timothy Bagley, to manufacture oil from whales driven ashore on the south coast of Long Island, and a Commission dated 26th June, 1723, appointing the same Ranger of the Island of Nassau, [L. I.] vice Hicks. — Ed.