

" from the charter and laws of your colony, they cannot
 " collect that there is any regular establishment of a na-
 " tional or provincial church there, so as to warrant the
 " holding of convocations or synods of the clergy; but
 " if such synods might be holden, yet they take it to be
 " clear in point of law, that his majesty's supremacy in
 " ecclesiastical affairs, being a branch of his prerogative,
 " does take place in the plantations, and that synods can-
 " not be held, nor is it lawful for the clergy to assemble
 " as in synods, without authority from his majesty: they
 " conceive the above-mentioned application of the said
 " ministers, not to you alone, as representing the king's
 " person, but to you, and the council, and the house of
 " representatives, to be a contempt of his majesty's pre-
 " rogative, as it is a publick acknowledgment, that the
 " power of granting what they desire resides in the legis-
 " lative body of the province, which by law is vested
 " only in his majesty. And the lieutenant governor,
 " council, and assembly intermeddling therein, was an
 " invasion of his majesty's royal authority, which it was
 " your duty as lieutenant governor, to have withstood
 " and rejected; and that the consent of the lieutenant
 " governor, the council, and house of representatives,
 " will not be sufficient authority for the holding of such
 " a synod."

" Their excellencies, upon consideration of this opi-
 " nion of the attorney and solicitor general, which they
 " have been pleased to approve, have commanded me to
 " acquaint you with, and to express to you their surprise,
 " that no account of so remarkable a transaction, which
 " so nearly concerns the king's prerogative, and the wel-
 " fare of his majesty's province under your govern-
 " ment, has been received from you, and to signify
 " to you their directions, that you do put an effectual
 " stop to any such proceedings; but if the consent desired
 " by the ministers above-mentioned, for the holding of
 " the synod, should have been obtained, and this pre-
 " tended synod should be actually sitting, when you re-

" ceive

" ceive
 " that c
 " meeti
 " is aga
 " gative
 " but if
 " contin
 " take c
 " for a n
 " formal
 " imply
 " what I
 " signify
 " And
 " ted in t
 " being h
 " 1680,
 " govern
 " by scire
 " was gran
 " that if su
 " a short
 " but non
 " I am, S

At the cou
 1705, p
 royal hi
 bishop
 lord pre
 secretary
 justice F
 merfer,

" A Re
 " of
 " at the b