

in Chief of the said province, or by any other instrument under the great seal of this kingdom: but only an instruction hath been given by his said Majesty, to his said Governours, under his Majesty's signet and sign-manual, communicating or purporting to communicate, to the said governours a certain very limited legislative authority, to be exercised by them by and with the advice and consent of the council of the said province only, without any assembly, to wit, an authority to make such rules and regulations as shall appear to be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of the said province, taking care that nothing be passed or done that shall any ways tend to affect the life, limb, or liberty of the subject, or to the imposing any duties or taxes: and this legislative authority has been found, by the experience of several years, to be too narrow for the purposes of good government in the said province:

And whereas it will therefore contribute to the welfare and good government of the said province for the time to come, until such time as it shall be thought expedient by the King's Majesty to summon a general assembly of the freeholders of the same, that a more ample legislative authority should be delegated to his Majesty's Governour and council of the same: and, for that purpose, that the number of members of the said council (which has hitherto been only twelve,) should be considerably increased; and that their offices of counsellors to his Majesty for the said province should be made independant of the Governour of the same: to the end that they may not only act with freedom in their deliberations for the good of the said province, but also be generally thought to do so by his Majesty's subjects in the same, and may, in consequence of their just and wise conduct in the exercise of this high authority for the welfare and good government of the said province, become the objects of general esteem and reverence in the same:

And whereas the establishment of such a legislative council in the said province is not likely to give any disgust, or offence, to those of his Majesty's antient British subjects who are already settled in the said province, or who may hereafter resort thither, but rather to be thought a just and necessary measure by them, and much less dangerous to their liberties and welfare than the immediate constitution of any assembly of the freeholders and planters of the said province, if, (contrary to the directions of his Majesty's commission of Captain-general and Governour in chief of the said province, above-mentioned,) any Roman-Catholic members should be admitted

Expediency of delegating a more ample legislative authority to the Governour and council only.

And making the said council more numerous than it is at present, and independant of the Governour.

Such a legislative council is likely to be more agreeable to the British inhabitants of the said province than an assembly into which the Roman-catholicks shall be admitted.

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