

In pursuance of this concert, M<sup>r</sup> Nichol, a Gentleman of Prominent talents, and hitherto of great utility in the House of Assembly, took advantage of the Call, I had been compelled to make on them, for means to defray the expenses of the Administration of Justice and the support of the Civil Government, on failure of the usual resort to the Extraordinaries of the Army, and induced the Lower House to form itself into a Committee, (as it was termed on the state of the Province) in which the resources of the Colony were to be investigated and means devised to meet the unusual supply demanded of them.

In this Committee propositions of an extraordinary character were introduced, in Language not measured, tending to censure this Government for restraining Emigration from the United States, which they knew to have been directed by His Majesty's Government, to reproach the lavish provision, of one seventh of the Land for a protestant Clergy.—to call for the sale of the Crown Reserves, and an Enquiry into the Revenue from the Post Office, which was supposed to have been enhanced, by encreased rates of postage, since the 17<sup>th</sup> of His Majesty, when the Reserves [sic] to be raised in the Province were declared to be applicable to its uses. [Encl. 2].

This wide field, ranged by the mover, M<sup>r</sup> Nichol, of this Committee, must naturally have led many of the Ignorant and seduced Members of the Assembly, to expressions and perhaps Resolutions, imprudent and inadmissible; but that consideration could not have led with certainty to the measure I have adopted, doubtful how far M<sup>r</sup> Nichol might be supported when the flagrancy of his attack upon the Government should be unmasked, the first part was made at the true and I apprehend, only object of the Mover's Apostacy; for until this Session, he had led the Loyal and Rational part of the Assembly, but indignant at some disappointment of a Medal, which he asserts, was promised by the King's Minister for Services in the War as Quarter Master General of Militia, and resenting my refusal to certify Services of which I had no knowledge, and my declining any Special interference in his favor, on the Subject of his Claim for remuneration of losses sustained by him during the War, as reported by the Commissioners

These considerations I presume, combined with interested Motives, arising from the Indian Sales induced him to propose in the form of Resolutions, first that the British Statutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> of George the 2<sup>nd</sup><sup>1</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of His Present Majesty, existed, and by their provisions, made it lawful for Subjects of the United States, of America, to settle, and hold Lands in this Province—secondly, that the prohibition to administer the Oath of Allegiance, to such persons, was illegal, and that the Governor should be addressed to rescind the order to that Effect.

Finding that part of these Resolutions, had been carried by a Majority of 13 to 7, on Saturday evening, and that the most obnoxious, which would unavoidably involve the Provincial Government, in improper discussion of the Commands of His Majesty's Government, would pass early on Monday, I decided rather to prorogue the Legislature in the then state of the Session, than to wait until such dangerous Resolutions, reported and adopted, should be promulgated to the Public, through the medium of the press.

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<sup>1</sup>13 Geo. II, cap. VII, (1740). "An Act for naturalizing such foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned, as are settled or shall settle, in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America."