

Lord Cornbury to the Lords of Trade.

[New-York Entries, G. 819.]

To the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords Commiss^{rs} for Trade & Plantations.

My Lords.

I trouble Your Lord^{sh} with these lines to acquaint you that on the 17th of January 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ a man of this town one Jackson came to acquaint me that two Ministers were come to town; one from Virginia, and one from Maryland, and that they desired to know when they might speak with me; I being willing to shew what Civility I cou'd to men of that character, ordered my man to tell Jackson that they should be well come to come to dine with me; They came, and then I found by the Answers they gave to the questions I asked them, that one, whose name is Francis Mackensie,¹ is a young Presbyterian Preacher settled in Virginia; the other, whose name is John Hampton, is a young Presbyterian Minister lately come to settle in Maryland; They Dined with me, and talked of indifferent things: They pretended they were going towards Boston; they did not say one syllable to me of preaching here, nor did not ask leave to do it; They applied themselves to the Dutch Minister, for leave to preach in the Dutch Church in this Town, who told them he was very willing, provided they cou'd get my consent; They never came to me for it; They went likewise to the Elders of the French Church, to desire leave to preach in the French Church, they gave them the same Answer the Dutch had; all this while they never applied themselves to me for leave, nor did they offer to qualify themselves as the Law directs; but on the Monday following I was informed that Mackensie had preached on the day before at the House of one Jackson, a Shoemaker in this town, and that Hampton had preached on Long Island, and that Mackensie after having preched here on Sunday was gone over to Long Island with intent to preach in all the towns in that Island, having spread a Report thereto, that they had a Commission from the Queen, to preach all along this Continent; I was informed on the same day from New Jersey, that the same men had preched in several places in that Province, and had ordained after their manner some Young men, who had preached without it among the Dissenters; And that when they were asked, if they had leave from the Govern^{mt} they said they had no need of leave from any Governor, they had the Queen's Authority for what they Did; These Reports and the Information I had from Long Island, of their behaviour there, induced me to send an order to the Sheriff of Queen's County on Long Island,² to bring them to this place, which he did on the 23^d day of January in the Evening; The Attorney General³ was with me; I asked Mackensie how he came to preach in this Government, without acquainting me with it, and without qualifying himself as the Law Requires; he told me had qualified himself according to law in Virginia, and that having so done, he wou'd preach in any part of the Queen's Dominions where he pleased, that this Province is part of the Queens Dominions as well as Virginia, and that the License he had obtained there was as good as any he cou'd obtain here; I told him that Virginia was part of the Queen's Dominions as well as this Province, but that they are two different Governments; That no Order or Law of that Province can take place in this, no more

¹ Mackemie.² Thomas Cardale.³ MAY BICKLEY, Esq., succeeded Mr. Broughton as Attorney-General, on the 3d of March, 1706. He seems to have performed the duties of the office until 1712. He was rather remarkable, says Smith, for a voluble tongue, than a penetrating head or much learning. — ED.