

patents the governor is bound to consult them, and regularly they cannot pass the seal without their advice.

They enjoy a legislative power, as the lords do in parliament; and exercise also judicial authority upon writs of error and appeals. They are convened by the governor, and he is always present when they sit as a court or privy council, which is ordinarily at the Fort. In their legislative capacity they meet without the governor, and always at the city-hall. They sit according to their seniority, and the eldest member present is speaker of the house. In a committee the chairman has no voice. They cannot vote by proxy, but have the privilege of entering their dissent, and the reasons at large, on their minutes. Their proceedings are very formal, and in many respects they imitate the example of the lords. Their messages to the assembly are carried by one of their own members, and the house always rises at his entrance, and receives them standing. The council never publish their legislative minutes, but the assembly always print their own votes, nor do either of these houses permit strangers to be present at their conventions.

A counselor's title is *The Honourable*. They serve his majesty without salaries. The business of the privy council board is of late very much increased, and never had so great weight in the colony as at present; which is much owing to the king's calling lawyers of reputation to the assistance of his governors.

The general assembly consists of twenty-seven representatives chosen by the people, in pursu-

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