

of his councils, summon and call general
 assemblies within the said governments :
 And that he had been graciously pleased to
 give power to his said governours, with the
 consent of his said councils, and the repre-
 sentatives of the people, to make, constitute,
 and ordain laws, statutes, and ordinances,
 for the public peace, welfare, and good
 government of those provinces, and of the
 people and inhabitants thereof. And whereas
 his most excellent majesty, in pursuance of
 his said royal proclamation, by his letters
 patent to his governours, has been graciously
 pleased to give and grant unto them full
 power and authority, with the advice and
 consent of his said councils, under the cir-
 cumstances aforesaid, to call general assem-
 blies of the freeholders and planters within
 their respective governments. And also,
 whereas your petitioners (who have well
 considered the present state and condition of
 the province) do humbly conceive, that a
 general assembly of the people would very
 much contribute to its peace, welfare, and
 good government, as well as to the im-
 provement of its agriculture, and the ex-
 tension of its trade and navigation ; they do
 therefore most humbly pray your honour
 (with the advice and content of his majesty's
 council) to summon and call a general
 assembly of the freeholders and planters
 within your government, in such manner as
 you in your discretion shall judge most proper.

Signed,