

§ 550 *cont.*]

1763.

be thrown into a state of the greatest confusion and distraction by a denial on my part of the validity of the pretensions of the Council and Assembly, unless that denial be supported by a solemn declaration of the Crown, not to say the Parliament also, of such a sort as may bring back this government to its first principles again; or his Majesty's authority and the honour of your Lordships' office must suffer by an acquiescence in me, which nothing but a conviction of the inefficacy and ill consequences of a contrary conduct without an extraordinary support, could possibly induce me to."

A resolution repeating the resentment of the Assembly towards the B. of T. and their determination to vindicate themselves to his Majesty from its harsh and unjust aspersions, was negatived, "but this, my Lords, I am sorry to say does not appear to have been owing to a sense of duty to the King or respect for your Lordships, but to an opinion that a complaint to his Majesty would not avail them, and also that it became them better to assert their own rights and liberties by resolutions of the Council and Assembly than to refer them to a decision of any third party, even of the Crown itself."

———. Reference by Committee to the Law Officers.

3 March.

[551.] PLANTATION TRADE. (a) Petition of J. Read for compensation, out of moneys arising from the sale of French prizes taken before the war, for his ship *Industry* taken by the French in March 1756 by way of reprisal for these captures. (b) A similar petition of T. Harris, relating to the *Somerset*. Both vessels were West India traders. (c) A list of 17 ships seized by the French by way of reprisals, most of them not in the plantation trade. A note adds that the only applications for compensation were *a* and *b supra*. The prizes taken by the English before the declaration of war were sold for 650,000*l.*; the French prizes did not exceed 20,000*l.* in value.

23 Feb.

Referred

to

Treasury.

[552.] VIRGINIA. *Two Appeals of Professors in William and Mary College.* Committee reports.

12 March.
IV. p.530.