

My fellow freemen

To the Freeholders of Jamaica

The undenied jurisdiction of the Assembly so speedily following the late General Election call upon us to exercise that darling Privilege of choosing once more worthy Men to represent us. In choice of them we cannot be too Deliberate and Circumspect at a juncture when more Artifice and greater Industry and Power has been exerted to influence Elections than ever was known before in this Country. Can we be too jealous of our Liberties or ought we to trust the Guardianship of them to Ignorant and unskillful or doubtful Men? Let us choose such to be our Representatives as have shown and assured themselves disinterested such as have been strenuous Assertors of these Liberties and not to be biased by any sinister Views of darling Projects or empty Promises, Let never be said that we sell our Birth-right for a Mess of Pottage, Let in the Event we find no repentance tho we shall seek it with Tears, Let us may not be led away by every Wind of Doctrina the following Quere are offered to our most serious Consideration by

A. B. a Freeholder

Quere

1. **Quere** 1. **When** an extraordinary Accident has required an Unconformity Preceding, which seems to Clash with Law, & Precedents is it not becoming the Prudence of a Legislative Body intrusted with the Care of the Liberties of the People, however they may approve of the present Act, to guard against such being established into a Precedent?
2. **Can** any of those proceedings which are only declarative of established Laws & Precedents be derogatory of the Just Privileges of the Crown?
3. **When** a particular Emergency has required any Unprecedented Measures differing from or Contrary to the prescribed form is it not the constant Practice of Parliaments to assert their Privileges & to resolve that the same shall not be construed into a precedent for the future?
4. **If** this has been the Conquest of the Majority, due to Representatives whose duty the Charge of carrying on things with High & Holy Authority? & why should we the Freeholders be Commoed for having made an improper Choice of Representatives with this a restraint on our most Darling Privilege?
5. **When** a Minority will not Conform to the Determinations of a Majority in an Inquiry affecting the Privileges of their own Body, sought for & urged by themselves in favour of that Minority, when they Abscond from their Duty & fly to a friend the Supreme power & expect itself to support such Proceedings what is not to be feared. Does not this look like a Combination in Confusion, and a Faction, betraying the Liberties of the People to gratify a spleen incensed by Disappointments in their long Expectations?
6. **Does** an Association necessarily imply a wicked Combination? Does the agreement of Eleven make the Tyranny of a Dozen? who Contived the Association? was it not the late Governor? from whom was it received and when? was it not transmitted by the late Mr. Salsbury to England in Friendship & Confidence to his Successor who Intend he was then Partnering? Did not Admiral Knowles approve of it and Acknowledge his Obligations for it, to each Individual of those Associates? was not Mr. Paro Comfrimed in his Honour soon after by the next Governor? Did he not promote Mr. Fuller soon after his Arrival to the Important Post of Chief Justice & since that Mr. Pinnock to the same Honour? And is not Mr. Archbold still one of the Council? who are now the Premier and of the Cabinet Council? and not two of those Associates?
7. **Who** shall advise the Association can deem it wicked. Who that is impartial & free from the Jealousness of not being made one of them but must approve of the Design? And has not the Actions of those against whom the Charge is directed proved the Integrity of their Intentions?
8. **If** the Association is wicked now, must it not have been equally wicked from the Beginning? why then Embrace it? why not discover and expose it? And why were not the Associates treated as wicked Combines? why not strip of their Honours & Authorities and exposed to Contempt & Punishment?
9. **A** Scheme to increase the Number of the Council to fifteen or twenty to be composed of the Principal Gentlemen of the Country who were to take all the Power of the Legislature into their own hands by influencing the Election of Members for the Assembly and by giving such returns as would bound their Liberties Direction in such a Scheme truly Subversive of the established Constitution of this Country and destructive of the Rights and Property of the People? was not such a Scheme proposed and by a certain very great Man formerly an Admiral? was it not proposed to one of the Associates? and exposed?
10. **At** what request was this extraordinary Paper writ, and who delivered it, was it not approved of, and did not the secret

Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

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**POLITICAL AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
- Documents Related to Governor Charles
Knowles - To the Freeholders of Jamaica, undated**



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