

Philadela. 30th March 1764  
Copy of a Circular Letter

Our General Assembly have adjourn'd for a short time to consult their constituents whether an humble Address should be drawn up and transmitted to his Majesty, praying that he would be pleased to take this Province under his immediate protection and Government; that is, whether the Treasurers of this Province should petition the King that we may be reduced to the Form of a King's Government.

The Presbyterians here, upon mature deliberation are of Opinion, that it is not safe to do things of such importance rashly. Our Privileges by these means may be greatly abridged, but will never be enlarged — We are under the King's Protection & Government now as much as we can be, for he will never govern us in person, and it is of no great consequence whether his Deputy [be recommended] by the proprietaries or by some other great man by his Majesty's Approbation. Our Charter is in danger by such a change and let no man persuade you to the contrary.

There has been a half yearly meeting of the Quakers in this City, but this change of Government; has not been proposed in their Meeting as we can yet understand, nor is it approved of by the heads of that Society.

This Affair is in all probability a Trap laid to ensnare the unwary, and then to cast an Odium on the Presbyterians for Ruining or attempting to Ruin the Province. The Frontier Counties are now suing for Redress of Grievances, and we have the greatest Reason to believe that it is no more than an artfully Scheme to divide or divert the



the Attention of the Injured Frontier Inhabitants from  
prosecuting their pitions, which very much alarm them.  
for these Reasons we would earnestly recommend it to you  
to loose [no] time in advising all under your influence,  
whether of our denomination or others from signing any such  
Petition— Sign'd & Order

The words between ~~brackets~~ [ ] are added  
supposed to be omitted by the Clerk in  
writing the letter

Gilbert Tennent  
Francis Alison  
John Ewing

Present

Stephen Johnson

To

Order - circular letters  
to several - 1764  
Signed  
Gilbert Tennent  
Francis Alison  
John Ewing