

**GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM BERKELEY'S APOLOGY TO KING
CHARLES II FOR DELIVERING UP THE COLONY OF VIRGINIA
TO THE REBELS (May 4th, 1652)**

May it please your Sacred Majesty

I most humbly throw my self at your Majesty's feet imploring your Majesty's pardon for delivering up your Majesty's Colony into the hands of your Enemies; which pardon I should never have the confidence to beg if there had been the least possibility of resistance: yet may it please your Majesty most confessedly true it is, that I could have destroyed the country with those forces I had, but preserve it I could not, for your Enemies took advantage of such a fatal conjuncture as animated all those who before were inclined to charge disheartened the Loyal party and made those that were indifferent fearfully and furiously cry out for any accomodation. This added to the uncertainty of where or in what condition your Majesty's Person was, which then we had not the least knowledge of, though since to our inexpressible joy we hear God has miraculously preserved from the hands of your Enemies and undoubtedly rescued your Majesty for most glorious fortunes, this uncertainty, may it please your Majesty, made the Council even petition me to consent to Articles of Surrender, lest as they said by destroying it your Majesty might lose those great businesses you will have from it when please God to restore your Majesty to your other Kingdoms: Because I am yet alive I dare not say twas in my wish rather to die than deliver up any thing your Majesty hath committed to my trust into the power of the Enemy but this I will most humbly and everlastingly profess that I will rather fly to your Majesty's justice for punishment if I have offended beyond pardon than live under or within the power of your Majesty's Enemies. Colonel Lovelace, who long and faithfully served your glorious father was an actor in and assistant to me in my last necessity. He will not dare to tell your Majesty any thing for or against my justification but what is of manifest truth: to his relation, I refer my innocence or guilt. ever praying God to preserve your Sacred Majesty, to give you Victory over your Enemies, to restore you to your Kingdoms and give you more in recompense of those your Majesty hath been so long kept from by your Enemies, thus ever prayeth

**Your Majesty's most humble,
Most faithful,
Most obedient servant,
Subject, and Creature**

Will Berkeley

Virginia , May the 4th, 1652