

**Richard Henry Lee to William Lee**

Virginia, 19 June 1771.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages + address leaf + docket.

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...you may know, that the Lawyers, bad everywhere, [*inserted*: (don't let the Doctors see this)] but in Carolina worse than bad, having long abused the people in the most infamous manner, at length brought things to such a pass, that a bond of £500 was taken for a single fee in trifling causes, and this bond put in suit and recovered before the business was done for which the fee was paid. Grieved in [2] this manner without being able to obtain redress, the people were at length driven by repeated injuries to do what otherwise they would never have thought of. The Governor himself in his speech to the Assembly acknowledges the grievances and recommends enquiry & redress, but instead of accompanying the redress with an Act of Amnesty, the constant political remedy among wise and humane statesmen in like cases, [*text loss*] to render with fire and sword the poor abused injured people. But the story goes, that when the Parties met, after some small intercourse, it was at length agreed by the Governor to allow a certain space of time for the Insurgents to consider about laying down their Arms, and that before the allowed time was elapsed, he fell upon the unsuspecting multitude, and made great slaughter with his Cannon....

