Delegate: Mr. Fawaz Naeem

School: Saint Edward’s School

Committee: Salem Village, 1692

Character: Richard Coote, First Earl of Bellomont

To be frank, I will make it known that I do not know this village well. Nor do I particularly care for its people. However, as a pious man, as a man of God, it is my duty to fight the forces of Satan. If these predictions are true, then there is only one thing we can do to stop the madness. We must begin immediate persecution of the “witches,” and all other followers of Satan. He preys on the weak. As a result, we must make sure to inspect women, children, and of course the mentally insane, on a regular basis. I believe that we should create a test of sorts, to ensure that someone is a follower of God. It is always better to err on the side of caution with an important matter such as this. As a result, I have devised a grand 3-step plan: prevent, test, and persecute.

According to the letter, it seems as though a lot of the problems that may occur are caused by either religious or economic problems. In order to prevent these issues, I suggest we incite reform within our colony in both of these subjects. Religiously, I believe that we could begin to have church services more often. Furthermore, we could have a religious lecture going on at a certain time everyday. Of course, garnering funds for such propositions is an issue. If we set a price for admission, then we will only be preaching to the wealthy. However, if we make it free, then there will be no way for us to ensure that the preachers continue to give the lectures, as they are not receiving any payment to live off of. Nonetheless, the goal of these lectures is to make sure that people feel nearer to God, so that they are able to resist the temptations that Satan creates and causes. Regarding the economic reform, I believe that we need to create a process to bridge the growing divide between the classes. The wealthy are becoming wealthier, and the poor are becoming poorer. This is not something we can let happen. Not only is it detrimental to our society, but letting these people go into bad financial situations is against our religious values. The goal of this reform is to help people resist Satan’s temptations, because they will not need to do immoral things to ensure their own survival.

The second part of my plan involves testing. As I stated earlier, Satan preys on the weak – women, children, and the insane. As a result it is imperative that we devise a test to tell whether someone has been taken control of, or affected by Satan in any way. I have heard from many that witches are incapable of reading scripture. Thus, it would provide an effective measure against any one who might be under suspicion. Another test would include searching for marks. I’ve also heard that witches bear satanic marks that distinguish them from normal people. I’m sure there are more tests that can be conducted. Creating a list of such tests will be extremely useful in the case that this “witch hysteria” actually breaks out. Finally, if we do see people failing our Witch tests, it is paramount that we persecute them. There is only one punishment for people of Satan: death. We must eliminate their evil from society, so as to prevent the spread of immorality and to prevent chaos. Again, we must initiate the three-step plan as soon as possible. This is the only way we can effectively prevent the destruction of our world, as we know it. Whether the predictions are true or not, we don’t know. However, we do know that we must fight against evil. So here, we make our stand.