

U. H. J.  
During this  
Session the  
Council met  
on June 5  
and 16 (25  
Archives  
531, 533).

The Speaker and the whole house accordingly attend on his Excellency to whom he is pleased to make the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Upper & Lower Houses of Assembly

However inconvenient in many Respects, this time of year may be, for our meeting in Assembly, yet such is the present Condition of Our Staple, that a Speedy Care for it's Amendment is necessary; It is therefore, you are now convened, that you might have an Early Opportunity to Consult the publick Good therein.

The late great Affliction wherewith it hath pleased Divine Providence to Visit me, and Indispositions that have attended me, have very much impeded the Application of my Thoughts, to publick business, so that I have little to lay before you at present, as of my own Consideration.

Gentlemen

Pursuant to the joynt Address of both Houses I have Concerted, as far as possible Since last Sessions a Correspondence with Virginia Some time before, a scheme had there been formed, towards an Useful Tobacco Law, and I understand it is so far approved of, that it is to be now laid before the Virginia Assembly. A copy of it I shall Communicate to you, for your Consideration The main Scope of it, is, I apprehend to prevent Trash from being Exported from these parts, and the running of our Tobacco at home, which by many  
p. 2 is Esteemed a more probable method of Advancing the Credit, and thereby the Value of Our Tobacco, than a bare Limitation to a number of plants, and surely Trash is the greatest Cancre to Our Staple: I hope you will not delay to enter most seriously and Calmly on a Subject so important to this province. I wish you now to Advise on all other Matters relating to the publick, that the trouble and Expencc of another Session this Year may be saved to the Countrey.

May wisdom and Moderation direct your Counsels otherwise they will be rendered ineffectual, and the Country possibly may grow daily more and more uneasie in it's Circumstances.

Certain you may be of my Inclinations, to advance the real happiness of his Lordships Tenants, and nothing can ever be more agreeable to me, than to see Blessed Harmony leading us into such Measures, as may fix it on a lasting foundation.

Proposals for the more Effectual Improving the Staple of Tobacco in Virginia and for preventing frauds therein.

Forasmuch as it is found by Experience that the Regulations heretofore Established for Obliging the Planters to make and Pack good and Merchantable Tobacco, and to prevent the Exportation of such Trash as Serves only to Clogg the Markets have not proved Effectual to that end, neither hath the Limiting the number of Plants