

THE
MARTLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, December 6, 1753.

The SPEECH of the Honourable ROBERT DINWIDDIE, Esq; Lieutenant Governor, and Commander in Chief, of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, to the General Assembly of the said Province, on Thursday the 1st Day of November, 1753.

Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

IT is with great Pleasure I meet you again in a Legislative Capacity, and as the last Session ended with great Harmony, I doubt not this present Session will begin, continue and end, in the same Manner; and I hope you meet with Unanimity, for the Service of your Country.

Your Address to His Majesty was transmitted and properly presented. I shall lay before you a Copy of sundry Paragraphs of Mr. Abercrombie your Agent's Letters to me, in Regard thereto, and to the Acts passed last Sessions: And I shall also lay before you a Letter from the Right Honourable the Lords of Trade, recommending a strict Friendship and Affection to the Indians, and shewing the Usefulness of giving a proper Encouragement to foreign Protestants to settle in the interior Parts of this Dominion; a Copy of the Lords of Trade, their Remonstrance and Reasons to His Majesty, on your revised Laws: a Report of the Commissioners of the Customs to the Lords of the Treasury, in Regard to your Tobacco Law; as also a Copy of an Instruction from His Majesty, granting me Power to give my Assent to two Laws formerly repealed; to all which I refer you.

I am heartily sorry, for the bad Accounts, we have of the Price of Tobacco at Home, and of its bad Quality; which I conceive must be greatly owing to the Neglect and Dishonesty of the Inspectors; I therefore recommend to your Consideration, whether the Reduction of the vast Number of Warehouses, and the appointing an Inspector General in each River, properly empowered to inspect the different Warehouses, and to examine the Books of the Inspectors, would not be of Service to remove the Complaints now subsisting.

Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

Since your last Adjournment, I have been alarmed by several Informations from our back Settlements, from the Indians, and from our neighbouring Governors, of a large Body of French Regulars, and Indians in their Interest, having marched from Canada, to the River Ohio, in an hostile Manner, to invade His Majesty's Territories, and having actually built a Fort on His Majesty's Land: On which, by the Advice of the Council, I have sent several considerable Presents to the Indians, that are our Allies, and in Friendship with us. These People seem much surprized at the Conduct of the French, and appear full of Resentment; and have assured the Commissioners, sent from me, of their sincere Attachment to the British Interest, and to the English Colonies on this Continent.

And as I intend to meet the Chiefs of the different Tribes of Indians, next May, at Winchester, to deliver a very considerable Present from His Majesty; I am in great Hopes then, to make a firm, strong, and lasting Alliance with them.

This Attempt of the French has been represented to the Ministry at Home, by several of the Governors on this Continent, and by myself; and by them it was laid before the King. His Majesty out of His paternal Love, Affection, and great Regard He bears to His Subjects on this Continent, immediately ordered one of His Ships of War to come to this Dominion, with His Royal Instructions to me, how to conduct myself, in the present Situation of Affairs: I also received Letters to all His Majesty's Governors on this Continent, with Orders to dispatch the same to them immediately.

As this Affair has been so strongly noticed and attended to at Home, and there judged to be of great Consequence to His Majesty's Dominions, and to His Subjects here, I doubt not you will

think it a Matter that requires your immediate Consideration.

And I am commanded by His Majesty immediately to call the Assembly within my Government and to lay before them the Necessity of a mutual Assistance, and to engage them to grant such Supplies, as the Exigency of the present Affairs require: Which I now do, and I doubt not but you will answer His Royal Expectations, by granting such Sums of Money, for the defeating the Designs of our Enemies, as the present Emergency calls for.

And as His Majesty's Ship is directed to wait for my Dispatches, I shall detain her 'till you come to some Resolution thereon. His Majesty has, out of His great Goodness and Regard to our Preservation, ordered Thirty Pieces of Cannon, Powder, &c. for the Protection of our Frontiers to the Westward, and I very soon expect them; when they do arrive, I shall advise with the Council how they shall be dispos'd of, for the Use intended.

Gentlemen,

I think, from the remarkable Tokens of His Majesty's paternal Care, and particular Regard for our Safety and Protection, I need use no other Arguments to you, to take into your Consideration the Necessity of a present and immediate Supply; not doubting but you will enable me to comply with His Majesty's Orders, and to return an agreeable Answer on the Subject, and that you will act herein consistently with the just and distinguished Character the Legislature of Virginia bears with the King and His Ministry at Home.

And as the Supply now demanded is for the Protection of our Lives and Properties, the Extension and Settlement of His Majesty's Territories, and for the Benefit and Advantage of us and our Posterity, I shall leave this Affair entirely to your mature Consideration.

Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

My Attention, ever since I had the Honour of presiding over this Dominion, has been to have the Militia properly trained up in the Use of their Arms, and to have them made more perfect and regular in the Exercise thereof: For that Purpose I have with the Advice of the Council, divided this Dominion into Four Districts; and have appointed an Adjutant to each District, with my Orders to exercise the Officers first, to qualify them to exercise each separate Company, so as to be properly prepared for General Musters in September: As I am of Opinion, That the Militia Law is deficient in some Points, I shall lay before you some Remarks thereon for your Consideration: As our Militia, under GOD, is our Chief Dependence, for the Protection of our Lives and Fortunes; (our Country being very extensive and without Fortifications,) I doubt not you will think it a proper Step to look into that Law, and make such Alteration and Amendment as to you may be thought necessary.

Gentlemen of the Council, and House of Burgesses, The Affairs before mentioned being all I have at present to lay before you, and as they are of great Consequence to this Colony I desire you will enter on your Duty, with Calmness and due Consideration, in the Discharge of the Trust reposed in you by your Constituents. And now I desire to assure you, That I am ready to assist you, in doing every Thing in my Power for the Service of His Majesty, and of this Dominion.

To the Honourable ROBERT DINWIDDIE, Esq; His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor, and Commander in Chief, of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia.

The humble ADDRESS of the COUNCIL.

S I R,

WE His Majesty's most faithful and loyal Subjects, the Council of Virginia, now met in General Assembly, beg Leave to return your Ho-

nour our sincere and hearty Thanks, for your affectionate Speech at the Opening of this Session.

We are truly sensible, Sir, of the many Instances of your assiduous Attention to his Majesty's Service, and the Interest of this Colony, during the Time you have presided over us: And we assure your Honour, that the fresh Proofs His Majesty has been graciously pleased to give us, of His paternal Affection and Regard, will not fail to have a proper Influence on our Minds.

Our own Knowledge of the Necessity of maintaining a strict Friendship with the Indians, especially in this Conjunction, and of a mutual Assistance to defeat the Designs of our Enemies, strengthened by the Recommendation of such a Conduct to us by His Majesty, indispensably obliges us, zealously to concur in all such Measures as shall be judged most conducive to these salutary Ends, and to the Support of His Majesty's Rights, and the Interests and Security of His Subjects in America.

And we intreat you, Sir, to be persuaded we shall pay a most cheerful and exact Regard to every Article you have submitted to our Consideration, and contribute all in our Power towards conducting and concluding the Business of this Session to the general Good of the Country, and of Consequence to your Honour's Satisfaction.

To which his Honour was pleased to make the following ANSWER.

Gentlemen of the Council,

I Thank you for your kind and affectionate Address: It gives me great Pleasure and Satisfaction, that the Discharge of my Duty, since I had the Honour of presiding over this Dominion, meets with your Approbation.

And that you so cheerfully observe His Majesty's tender Care, and paternal Affection for us, with your Resolution to attend to the Methods prescribed for obtaining and continuing the Friendship of the Indians in the British Interest; and thereby, with our Assistance, defeating the Designs of our Enemies: As also your just Opinion of the Necessity at this Time of having a mutual Supply.

I am very sensible of your strict Attachment in assisting me to obey the Orders and Commands of His Majesty. And at the same Time I now acknowledge myself very happy, in having Gentlemen of your Probity and good Sense, appointed by His Majesty, to assist and advise me in the Discharge of the Duties of my Government.

To the Honourable ROBERT DINWIDDIE, Esq; His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor, and Commander in Chief, of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia.

The humble ADDRESS of the House of BURGESSES.

S I R,

WE His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgess of Virginia, now met in General Assembly, return your Honour our Thanks, for your Speech at the Opening of this Session.

With Hearts full of Duty and Gratitude for the paternal Care His Majesty is graciously pleased to extend to us, His distant Subjects, we beg Leave to assure your Honour of our inviolable Fidelity and Affection to His Majesty's sacred Person and Government, and our Zeal for the Continuance of the British Crown, in His Royal and illustrious House.

We will take the important Matters recommended to us by your Honour, under our serious Consideration, with that Calmness and Unanimity, as will demonstrate our steady and firm Attachment to the true Interest of our Country.