

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, December 31, 1745.

The SPEECH of his Excellency Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart. Governor of the Island of Barbadoes, to the Honourable the Members of his Majesty's Council, and to the Assembly, on Thursday October 17, 1745.

Gentlemen of the Council and Assembly,

ALTHOUGH the End of civil Government is one and the same, yet the Measures by which that End is to be attained, and the Channels through which it is pursued, may be different and various; it is from this Principle I would chuse to reconcile that Diversity of Sentiments which has of late appeared among us; and I would as far as I can, in Confidence of future Uniformity, persuade myself, that there are none here to be found, either called by his Majesty's Authority, or by the Voice of the People, to a Share of public Trust, but such as have the true End of Society in View; and the Interest of his Country at Heart.

THIS Interest, extensive in it's Relations, is to be conducted to Perfection; as near as may be, by public Councils; and these Councils, as from the Form of our Constitution they consist of distinct Bodies, can only move with Propriety and Effect, where due Subordination is preserved, and no one Branch inroads on the Department of the other: For since each has it's proper Function and Office, that Harmony which would be the Result of regular and limited Motions in each, becomes Discord and Faction, when the Bounds are transgressed and the Partition broken down.

In the present Situation, it gives me no small Satisfaction that I am not singular in these Measures, which the Duty I owe to his Majesty, and my Commission, oblige me to pursue; and since I have the Concurrence of some, whose public Dignity and private Characters, whose Fortunes and Properties are of the first Estimation, I have all imaginable Confidence, that their Opposition, and that their Views are influenced by no other Motive than the common Weal, wherein their separate Interests are so essentially involv'd: To this End, how far these Measures or the contrary Pursuits may most conduce is not for me to determine; but while the Event is in Suspence you have my sincere Wish, that those alone should prevail which may prove most effectual to the Prosperity and Well-being of the Island.

Gentlemen of the Assembly,

As unforeseen Exigencies might require your Attendance, I ordered Writs to issue for an Election of Representatives, as early as the Form of Government would admit.

You will place before you, as a principal Object, the public Credit, an Object of the utmost Importance to your Well-being in Time of Peace; but necessary even to your Existence, as a Community, in Time of War.

In Consequence, I trust that you will cheerfully raise all the necessary Supplies of the Year, and that with due Attention to the Circumstances of the Times and your fellow Subjects.

You will consider, that those who have the least to defend can bear the least Diminution of their Fortunes; and as their corporal Service is equal to that of others whose Properties are superior, it is but just that the public Levies should fall as easy on the former as possible. If Taxes were imposed on Superfluities of Life, and exacted from those Consumptions where the Poor are least concerned, so much might be spared to the Necessities of the more Indigent, as would be collected from the Affluence of the Rich; but as this Levy (regulate it as you best can) must of Necessity run high, it will make all Men who contribute to the Charge sit easy under the Burden, when they know that the Stewards of the public Treasure have employed it to the most useful and advantageous Purposes; for which End I think, that every Man, of what Rank and Condition soever he be, should have an Opportunity of being satisfied, how that Fund, into which he paid his Proportion, has been exhausted and accounted for.

You will also consider, notwithstanding large Sums have been expended on the Fortifications, yet the Circumstances of the Times require, that nothing should remain unfinished for the common Safe-guard; and in a Climate where neither Materials nor Workmanship are the most durable, but the Influence of the Seasons most penetrating, you will remember, unless future Expences are bestowed in repairing your past Labour and Charge will prove but vain in building.

The Number of Forts to be defended, compared with the Number of Gunners and Matrosses appointed for their Defence, will evidently demonstrate the great Disproportion between the Work to be done and the Hands to execute it: Whether to add to the Strength of the ordinary Establishment, by engaging an extraordinary Number to attend on every Alarm, at a certain Premium for the Occasion, may not save the Expence of standing Salaries, and prove a proper Expedient against the visible Defect, I shall leave to your Consideration.

The Manner in which these necessary Instruments of our Defence have hitherto been paid, has obliged the Public to receive into their Service some Men weak and infirm; and has I fear, not only been a great Disregardment to the regular Attendance of such as have undertaken, rather than been able to undertake the Duty, but even prevented Men of Strength and