

THE
MARYLAND GAZETTE

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, June 24, 1746.

The SPEECH of his Excellency THOMAS BLADEN, Esq; Governor and Commander in chief in and over the Province of Maryland, to the General Assembly of the said Province, on Tuesday the 17th Day of June, 1746.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

HIS unexpected meeting you is occasioned by a Letter I very lately received from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, whereby he signifies his Majesty's Commands, that I should immediately make every necessary Disposition for the raising as many Forces within this Province as the Shortness of the Time will permit; which, together with others to be levied in the neighbouring Governments, are to act in Concert with his Majesty's Regular Forces, which are daily expected from Great-Britain, in an Expedition for the Reduction of Canada.

THE Success of this Enterprize is so visibly important to the Glory of the Crown of Great-Britain, the Advantage of its Trade, and the Safety and Quiet of ourselves, that I am persuaded every loyal Breast will be warmed with an Earnestness to shew their Duty to his Majesty, in answering his Royal Expectations on this Occasion: And, that this great Design may be better pursued, I cannot avoid recommending to your Consideration some Provision or Allowance by the way of a Bounty, for the Encouragement of such who may be willing to engage themselves as Soldiers in this Service.

I AM, by his Majesty, commanded to make Application to the Assembly of this Province, that a sufficient Quantity of Provisions be procured for the Subsistence of our Levies; and I am further commanded to take care that Arms and Cloaths be provided for them, the Expence of which is to be allowed for in a reasonable Manner, out of a Fund appointed by his Majesty.

You are sensible that I must find myself under an Impossibility of complying with this Part of the Royal Commands, with Regard to the Arms, unless some Part of those already purchased by the Public, and now in the Country, be made use of for this Purpose.

I SHALL lay before you several Letters which I have received from the Governors of New-York and New-England, earnestly pressing that Commissioners should be sent from this Province, in order to consult with the Commissioners of his Majesty's other Governments upon the best Method to engage the Six Nations of Indians, who are now wavering, to take up the Hatchet, and declare War against the French and their Indians.

THIS Measure, tho' extremely proper before, is now made absolutely necessary in the present Conjuncture of this Expedition. The Assembly voted at our last Meeting as a Gift to the

will thoroughly consider what is so repeatedly desired by the neighbouring Governments.

HOWEVER expensive these Services may be to the Country, yet they are for such Purposes as give us an Opportunity of manifesting our Zeal and Loyalty to his Majesty, as well as a commendable Care and Precaution for our future Safety from the Attempts of the French, and the Fickleness of Indians, who must from Time to Time be courted and engaged by Presents; and it will surely be considered as a Happiness, if we can by some early Contributions not only put ourselves into a State of Defense, but either totally destroy the Enemy, or at least keep him at such a Distance as not to infect our Borders.

As I am commanded by his Majesty, I must earnestly press you to all imaginable Dispatch; since the Shortness of Time, and the Nature of the Service required, will not admit of the least Delay.

To his Excellency THOMAS BLADEN, Esq; Governor and Commander in chief in and over the Province of Maryland;
The humble ADDRESS of the Upper House of Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,

WE return your Excellency Thanks, for your kind Speech at the Opening of this Session.

THE Importance of the Enterprize, which gives Occasion to this present Assembly, is so great, and the Trade of Great-Britain in general, as well as the American Plantations in particular, so much interested in its Success, that we shall with the greatest Cheerfulness contribute all in our Power to forward it.

THE Glory of our Sovereign will at all Times excite us to exert ourselves, and act with Vigour; and more especially now, when it is placed so evidently in the Happiness of the People, as the Attempt to reduce Canada is; and which we are assured will have the Concurrence of every honest Subject; Self-Interest, as well as Loyalty, will be a Spur to it; and therefore we hope that the Royal Expectations on this glorious Occasion will meet with no Disappointment: Nor shall we be waiting in our Inclinations for such a Bounty, as will effectually encourage Men to enlist for the Service proposed.

We are sensible that it is impossible to comply with the Royal Commands in furnishing Arms, without making use of those now in the Province, purchased by the Public; and which we think the more proper, as this Expedition tends in the highest Degree to the Safety of this Province.

As the Indians are a fluctuating and mercenary People, to be gained or secured in any Friendship but by Presents, we shall readily approve any Measure that may be thought necessary, to engage the Six Nations to declare War against the French in this Conjuncture.