

There are so many Advantages for the Making and Repairing High-Roads that the thing Speaks it self; so shall only observe to you that the Laws in force, for that purpose, are not in many parts of this Province put in due Execution; and, as I conceive, it proceeds from the want of a sufficient Penalty on the Overseers, and on those that Refuse to pay Obedience to their Orders, and that Generally the meanest of the People are appointed to those Offices, which obliges Me to repeat, what I said on another Occasion, no man is too good to serve his Country; I recommend it to you in a particular Manner, as of Publick Use and Honour to this Province, that you will make such Provision as you shall find necessary, for the building a Bridge over the River Patuxent, at *Queen Annes Town*, in this County, and for making a safe and Convenient Road over that Dangerous Place called *Kent Marshes* on the *Eastern Shore*; these two Places being the great Road through the Head of this Country, and also the Usual and shortest Passage for all Travellers to and from his Majesty's Plantations on this Continent.

Since I find the Excessive Charge to the Country, for the killing of *Squirrels*, do's not decrease in Proportion to what was Expected, I do again desire that Law may be taken into Consideration; and this I do propose from my tender Regard, for the good of this Province, which I shall always have at Heart; and am ever careful lest you should hurt your selves, tho' by your own consent. For what will Posterity and Strangers say, when they are Informed, the war you make on those little Animals has cost the Country by a modest Computation in one Year, *Seven Thousand Pound Sterlings*?

When I reflect on the happy encrease of the Youth of this Province, and the vast Importation of *Europeans* and *Negroes* into it, yet that the Number of their Taxables, do not amount to what it might be reasonably Expected from those causes; It's natural from hence to Conclude, that there are not Just Returns made to the Publick; This is Worthy your Inquisition, and, in my Opinion, there cannot be too severe Penalties imposed on such, who wilfully conceal their Taxables, and so defraud the Publick; whereas all that receive Protection from your Laws ought to bear and equal Proportion of that Charge, which is Levied for the Common good.

Gentlemen,

I Have, after my Accustomed Method, laid before you the Intention and End of your Meeting; and what I have Offered, is, in the sincerity of my Heart, proposed for your welfare. But as you are, I thank G O D, a free People, so you may accept or Refuse what I now deliver to you, as you shall find it for the Conveniency or Inconveniency of your Country.

14th May 1719.

JO. HART.

*Gov Hart was buried at the Hermitage plantation
on Charles River, Queen Anne's Co. Va.
John Boyman Keen*