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THE
S P E E C H

OF

His Excellency **BENEDICT LEONARD CALVERT**,
Governour and Commander in Chief, in and over the Province of
MARYLAND, to both Houses of Assembly, at the Opening of
this Session,

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,



THE Decease of Our late most Gracious Sovereign Lord King **GEORGE**, affords Me the melancholly Occasion, to condole with You the Loss of the Greatest and Best of Kings, to whose vigilant and tender Care of his People, *Great-Britain* owes the Preservation of its happy Constitution both in Church and State, with all the other Blessings of Trade and Commerce, Peace and Tranquility, both at home and abroad, as much to the Envy of all Neighbouring Nations, as to the Glory of our own. Had these inestimable Blessings been only transitory with our late Sovereign's Life, *Great-Britain* must have remained inconsolable; but as they are inherent to a Succession in the *Hanover* Line, they yet remain permanent to Us, by the immediate Accession of his present Majesty to the Throne. A Prince, whom *Great-Britain* hath not only Recogniz'd, as the lawful Successor, to his Royal Father's Throne, but also as the True Inheritor of those numerous Royal and Glorious Vertues, wherewith his Great Father did adorn his Crown. His Majesty's most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, with the dutiful Addresses of the Lords and Commons in Return, best bespeak our Nation's present Happiness, and the pleasing View of its Continuation, by a constant future Succession in his Majesty's Royal House and Family: Such a Prospect as this, must be grateful to every one that thinks and wishes as a *True Briton* should; wherefore I do heartily congratulate You all as such, on this just and important Occasion.

I have endeavoured to express our joyful and dutiful Sense of these happy Tidings, by Proclaiming his present Majesty here, in the most solemn and decent Manner our Circumstances of Time and Place could admit of, wherein I hope for Your Approbation, and likewise Your Concurrence, in an Address to his Majesty, to be presented by Our Lord Proprietary, with Our due Acknowledgments of the Divine Blessing, in his Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne of his Ancestors.

Gentlemen,

AS I am now addressing My self to the Representative Body of the People of this Province, I cannot omit the Return of My sincerest Thanks to them, for the kind Reception I have hitherto found in this Province; it has imprinted in My Mind the most favourable Ideas of a People loyal to their King, dutiful to their Lord Proprietary, and benevolent to My-self; May this happy Disposition towards Your King and Proprietary, ever continue among You, inasmuch as it will secure to You, his Majesty's Royal Protection, and his Lordship's kindest Indulgence on all Occasions. As for My-self, their unworthy Representative here, I have had little Time as yet to merit Your favourable Consideration of Me; but if a perpetual Attachment to Your Interest, and uninterrupted Endeavours for Your Welfare, may justly entitle Me to it, I hope not to be defeated of the Reward I have so principally in My View, the fair Opinion and Esteem of the good People of *Maryland*.

AS You are now met in Assembly, to consult the Publick Good, let the Service of Almighty God, and the Honour of his holy Religion, be Your first and chiefest Care, that true religious Worship, and the Virtues becoming the Professors of Christianity, may be established among Us.

IN the Consideration of Your Civil Interest, the present ill State of the Staple of this Province may require Your utmost attention, and happily some Method may be found out to render it more beneficial to Us: The Merchants at Home complain of Our Shipping *Tobacco* so late in the Year, and the Slavery imposed on their Sailors, by being obliged to roll it from far to the Water-side: From hence they observe, that their Ships lye here subject for many Months to the Injury of the Worm, their Sailors undergo such Fatigue from the Excess of Heat and Labour, that if not lessened in Number, they are at least abated in their Ability to work the Ships home, and that their Ships arrive on the *English* Coast in a stormy and dangerous Season: If these