

Ordered that his Excellency's speech be entered as follows viz

Gentlemen of the Assembly

Upon the sad and joyful notice of his Majesty's happy accession to the Crown I have called you together to consult the good of this Province and to consider what has been well begun in the last Assembly but interrupted by the death of our late Queen of pious Memory.

I am persuaded you will not spend this Session with any thing more profitable (to a people who have already distinguished themselves) than by congratulating you on the auspicious occasion of his Majesty King George III being so graciously seated on the Throne of his Ancestors.

The serenity with which he has long governed his Subjects in Germany the deference that is paid his unanimous judgment by all the Princes of Europe and strong indications that happy people would be under the influence of one of the greatest he will do for the best of things that ever blessed the British Empire.

Our Religion is secured in his Royal person not by the effect of a wise policy but by an exemplary practice of his truth and purity of his principles.

Who can doubt our laws will be maintained and our liberties preserved when they are protected by a just and mighty Prince that has been so zealous an Advocate of the Liberties of Europe against all bold Invaders.

The noble disposition of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales - His generous Courage he so valiantly exerted in the field and the numerous offspring which Providence has given him afford a pleasing prospect of a nation in the pursuit of happiness but - What can we desire now but that the good God will preserve such invaluable blessings to us and make us duly sensible of them.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates I am to acquaint you that I did before you the last Assembly an Instruction from his late Majesty for the better regulation of this Province, and have since received his Majesty's Commands to be observed of those Instructions.

The necessity of this Instruction is so manifestly evident that it is obvious from most of your Laws being very defective, for that I had not on your last Assembly further what is so much to your advantage but must recommend to you to pursue it with application, my observation of your own Expences will be found that long frequent

Assembly are grievous burdens to the People.

At my first Arrival in this Province I lay before your House a Law lately passed in Virginia for the improvement of the Tobacco Trade, in which there are many useful things to be observed that are in this

Country but having since seen an Act of Parliament for great Britain justly entitled an Act for the

encouraging the Tobacco Trade which provides abundantly more for your welfare and benefit all the

great Contentions of the Province in passing with so considerable a branch of the Revenue

your favour I mean by passing that Act for the encouraging the Tobacco Trade and the immediate

profit and advantage you will reap from it will be demonstrated by the Act itself which I

will send down to your House for your perusal.

Gentlemen I am sensible to compute the delay of the Revenue here more to accident or to

you to any intention of the good People of the Province to defend the Crown but what was at

it only the accident of Trade if they grow into a pernicious custom by which the Revenue is

greatly impaired as will evidently appear by a Law made in an Assembly of the 26th April 1679

that the same is referred by my Instruction which I have communicated to you for your information.

It is that the Regulation of Trade is much altered since that time and if it would prove

unconsequence to reduce your Trade to the former weight, so it is very injurious to the Crown

due proportion of Duty had to it. It is therefore expected on his Majesty's behalf that

you will be so good as to remove these abuses. The Inhabitants of this Province with an untiring industry

have laboured to cultivate the growth of Tobacco - but there still remains many

useful tracts of this fertile Soil especially in the Eastern Shore which if not for a great

part of this Soil has been hitherto only used for a rude and unimproved manner.