

the Body of the People his Majesty's Liege Subjects, and we are sorry to see Merit made of that which ought to Debase, and those mostly Caref'd who are most Active in the Maltreatment and Oppression of the good People of this Province.

We are now, as heretofore we were, fully convinced that Heats and Animosities are an ill Foundation for the Pursuit of the Public Good; wherefore we then did, as we now shall, endeavour what lies in our Power, to avoid giving Rise to such, and we humbly Hope that no artful or colourable Pretences will be made use of to Impede the Public Business. On our Part we do with Truth and unfeigned Sincerity assure your Excellency, that we are come with a hearty Desire and firm Resolution to do every thing in our Power to promote the general Good and Welfare of the Province of *Maryland*, than which we have nothing more near at Heart.

Your Excellency is pleased to Declare, as you often have, your good Intentions for the Welfare of this Province and People, and we are truly sorry that your kind Resolutions, so often published, should hitherto be Frustrated and rendered Void, by the Malevolent Influence of evil Councils; such may gain to themselves private Advantage, while the Publick are sacrificed to their Avarice and Ambition, and his Majesty's Poor, Loyal and Dutiful Subjects, entirely Destitute of Means to Redress themselves, sinking under the Yoke of Bondage, be well pleased that they fare no worse, than being brought to a State of Villenage.

Since your Excellency have been pleased to give us such strong Assurances of your Willingness to give a helping Hand to remove every Obstacle to the Happiness and Prosperity of the Province, we will humbly presume, in full Hopes of your kind Concurrence and Redress, to lay before you such Aggrievances and Oppressions as we take to be real Obstacles to it's Prosperity and Happiness. And we most humbly Hope your Excellency will not attribute the just Discharge of our Duty, or our moving with Decency, Order and good Manners in these Points wherein we feel ourselves sensibly Affected, to the Want of Moderation and Temper; or a due Regard to your Person. We assure your Excellency that we shall with the greatest Zeal and Coolness of Temper, pursue the general Good so far as we can, and avoid as destructive Precipices, any sinister or artful Practices of Self-interested or Designing Persons, let their Pretences be veiled over by what Gloss soever, and that such shall in no ways influence our Words or Actions.

We hope your Excellency had the Public, as well as his Lordship's Interest at Heart, in promoting the Continuance of the Payment of Rents, and Alienation Fines, as the same had for some Time before been, by a Duty on Tobacco the Staple of this Province; and likewise that of Passing the Currency Emitted by his Lordship and the good People of this Province, in Payments to the Clergy and Officers: And with great Submission, we take leave to Judge favourably of those, who through a