

*me, had I suffered those Buildings and Improvements, on my Land, to have gone on, without giving these Notices.*

I am, Sir, your Honour's

Most Obedient Humble Servant,

May 3, 1744.

S. BORDLEY.

On Reading the aforesaid Letter, *Ordered*, That an Address be prepared to his Excellency the Governor, and that the Committee of Laws prepare and bring in the same.

The following Ingrossed Address, *viz.*

*To his Excellency THOMAS BLADEN, Esq, Governor of Maryland :*

The humble ADDRESS of the HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

*May it please your Excellency,*

**W**E his Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Delegates of the Freemen of the Province of *Maryland*, in General Assembly convened, return your Excellency our Thanks; for not calling us together until this convenient Season of the Year, and for your zealous Disposition expressed in your Speech, at the opening of the Sessions, for the Safety and Protection of this Province.

Our Steady Loyalty, and inviolable Attachment to his Most Sacred Majesty's Person and Government, and Regard to our own Safety, will necessarily engage us to take all proper Measures in our Power, for putting ourselves into a Posture of Defence, at a Time when the State of Affairs in *Europe* is so uncertain, when there is so great a Probability of a *French* War, and *Great-Britain*, as by the late Advices, has been threatened with an Invasion. But we cannot omit telling your Excellency, that these are our only Motives for entering on such Measures, and that no Consideration of future Misunderstandings, the putting a Stop to public Business, nor any Consideration whatsoever, besides our Duty to our Sovereign, and our own Security, shall in the least influence us in this Matter, or shall be an Ingredient in this, or any other Case, to induce us to lay Taxes on the People we represent; and we are therefore sorry your Excellency should have made use of Arguments of this Kind, with us, on the present Occasion, as it may, to Strangers, seem to carry an Insinuation of our Want of Loyalty to our King, or Duty to our Constituents; altho' we can with the greatest Truth say, that his Majesty has not in his Dominions more Dutiful and Faithful Subjects than those of the Province of *Maryland*; which Duty and Fidelity, as we always hitherto have done, so we will embrace all proper Opportunities of demonstrating.

Your Excellency's urging us in such strong Terms, to make a Provision for Arms and Ammunition, is, no doubt, the Consequence of your Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and good Wishes for the Welfare and Quiet of this Province: But why the particular Manner of making that Provision, should be pressed in the like Terms, and coupled with the same Consequences, we acknowledge ourselves at a Loss to know. The late Act for that Purpose, which expired some Years ago, had that in it, which proved the Occasion of some of the Misunderstandings, and the Stopping of public Business, which happened before your Excellency's Arrival; and it is for avoiding the like ill Consequences for the future, that we resolve to frame such Bills in a different Manner; altho' at the same Time we must