

M. J. K. 67. 1785. K

# HISTORY

OF a Session of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the  
STATE of MARYLAND, held at the City of  
ANNAPOLIS, commenced in November 1785.

In presenting a performance of this nature to the public, it will be necessary to give some account of the motives on which it was undertaken, and the reasons on which it was proposed to be conducted. An accurate knowledge of the conduct and principles of those who are entrusted with the power of making laws, for the government of the State, must certainly be an object of the highest consequence to a free people, on whose voice alone they must depend, for their continuance in our councils.— That this knowledge has been hitherto obtained in a very small degree, must be obvious to those who have resided in the country at any considerable distance from the seat of government, where the people in general have so imperfect a knowledge of the conduct of their representatives, as to afford them no manner of guide for their dismissal, or reelection to this important trust.

The public papers will make them acquainted with the number and titles of the acts which have been passed, and they must necessarily acquire a knowledge of the most material parts of the supply bill. It may be said likewise, that the votes and proceedings of the General Assembly will convey sufficient information of the conduct of the Delegates; but it will appear on reflection, that should they even circulate much more generally and timely than they do, they would still fall short of this desirable purpose, unless they were considered with a degree of attention, which many of the people have neither the leisure nor ability to exert.

The