

Dollars, Pieces of Eight &<sup>ta</sup> and distributing them for good L. H. J. ones and of laying a Fine on all Openers of other Men's Letters which villainous Practice is so frequently used in this Province (and abhorred every where but in an Enemy's Country) to our great Scandal, for the Right Honble Mr Secretary alledges his Letters to me have not 'scaped the knavish Inspection of those Sort of Men. There are others I shall presume to communicate to the House of Burgesses by Message.

And now Mr Speaker and you Gentlemen Delegates give me Leave to remind you of my own small Concern, the Rent of my House with necessary Repairs and Amendments about it and the Out-Houses; for without those little Additions I could expect no comfortable Being.

Gentlemen: I can never believe it was any Disgust to my Person or a Slight to her Majesty's Directions in that Point, you refused building the Governor a House (which our Neighbours at first word granted to theirs) but the low unfortunate Circumstance the poor Province laboured under, for which Reason I refused 15<sup>th</sup> a Year above the Rent I stand at, when you were pleased to offer it, and let the Matters rest without any Reluctancy or uneasiness till we knew each other better.

Therefore as you never found me Mercenary or tricking I cannot doubt your Justice in this Trifle. What have I expended amounts to £ 47..13..6 to the Truth of which I can solemnly depose. I have observed in some Speeches of a Predecessor a very ingenious winning passage, That he had put the country to no Charge. It's true I have, but be so just as to consider those were Halcyon Days of Peace and Tranquility mine of War and Hurly burly abroad and at Home, which threaten us anew But I appeal to every Gentleman here present to justify me in the Truth of this modest Assertion; That what has been laid out by my Directions was for Your Honour Safety and Service without any manner of Prospect to myself or Family. Your small Stock of Arms are well fixed, our Ammunition good and useful, and think it my Duty while I am Your Governor to have it constantly preserved for the publick Service from all Homebred Villains and every Enemy to our Monarch & Country.

What Designs are carrying on to bring such Trouble and Expence upon us the House shall be Acquainted with not without Hopes by your prudent Timely Assistance to defeat and punish the Ringleaders for their new concerted Barbarity; which surely I can never fail of from Gentlemen whose Integrity and Ability the Freeholders of this Province were so well assured of unanimously to choose for Burgesses to serve and use your utmost Endeavours to preserve our Liberties and this our lawful Constitution.