

good of this Province and to compleat what was so well begun ^{U. H. J.} in the last Assembly but interrupted by the Death of our late Queen of pious memory

I am perswaded I cannot open this Session with any thing more grateful (to a people who have already distinguished their Joy) than by congratulating you on the auspicious occasion of his Majesty King George his being so peaceably & securely Seated on the Throne of his Ancestors.

The Lenity with which he has long governed his Subjects in Germany, The Deference which is paid his consummate Judgement by all the Princes in Europe are strong Indications how happy a People we may be under the Influence of one of the Greatest as well as one of the best of Kings that ever Swayed the Brittish Scepter

Our Religion is secured in his Royal Person not by the Effect of a refined Policy but an exemplary practice of the Truth and purity of his Principle

Who can doubt but our Laws will be maintained & our Libertys preserved when they are protected by a Just & mighty Prince that has been so Zealous an Assertor of the Libertys of Europe against all bold Invaders

The noble Disposition of his royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Generous Courage he so early exerted in the Field and the numerous Offspring which Providence has ^{p. 5} given him affords a pleasing view of a continued Series of Happiness to us. What can we desire now but that the good God will preserve such invaluable Blessings to us and make us dutifully Sensible of them

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates I am to acquaint you I laid before the last Assembly an Instruction from her late Majesty to revise the Laws of this Province and have since received his Majesty's Commands to be observant of those Instructions

The necessity of this so useful a work is obvious from most of your Laws being very defective so that I need not enforce any further what is so much to your Advantage, but must recommend to you to pursue it with application, for my observation of your past Journalls makes it Evident to me, and your own Experience will inform you that long & frequent Assemblies are grievous Burthens to the people

At my first Arrival into this Province I laid before your House a Law lately passed in Virginia for the improvement of the Tob^o Trade in which there are many useful Things to advance that Staple in this Country but having since received an Act of Parliam^t from Great Brittain justly Entituled an Act