

Lib. C. B. To His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq^r Governor and Com-
No. 20 mander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland.

The Humble Address of the House of Delegates.

May it please your Excellency.

In Answer to your Excellency's Message of the 20th we must observe, that if the Letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay addressed to and Communicated by our Speaker to this House, be the same with the Letter, a Copy of which you are pleased to intimate, hath been communicated to the King's Ministers, it is very alarming to find that, at a time when the People of America think themselves aggrieved by the late Acts of Parliament, imposing Taxes on them for the Sole and express Purpose of raising a Revenue, and in the most Dutiful Manner are seeking Redress from the Throne, any endeavours to unite in laying before their Sovereign what is apprehended to be their just Complaint, should be look'd upon as a Measure of most dangerous and factious Tendency, calculated to inflame the Minds of His Majesty's good Subjects in the Colonies, to promote an unwarrantable Combination, excite and encourage an open Opposition and Denial of the Authority of Parliament, and to Subvert the true Principles of the Constitution. We cannot but view this as an Attempt in some of his Majesty's Ministers to Suppress all Communication of Sentiments between the Colonies, and to prevent the united Supplication of America from reaching the Royal Ear. We hope the Conduct of this House will ever evince their Reverence and respect for the Laws, and faithful Attachment to the Constitution; but we cannot be brought to resent an Exertion of the most undoubted constitutional Right of Petitioning the Throne, or any endeavours to procure and preserve an Union of the Colonies, as an unjustifiable attempt to revive those Distractions, which it is said have operated so fatally to the Prejudice of both the Colonies and the Mother Country. We have the Warmest and most affectionate Attachment to Our most Gracious Sovereign, and shall ever pay the readiest and most respectful Regard to the just and constitutional Power of the British Parliament; But we shall not be intimidated, by a few sounding Expressions, from doing what we think is Right.

The House of Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, in their Letters to us, have intimated that they have preferred an humble dutiful and loyal Petition to the King, and expressed their Confidence that the United and Dutiful Supplications of his distressed American Subjects, will meet with his Royal and favourable Acceptance; and we think they have asserted their Rights with a decent Respect to their Sovereign, and a due Submission to the Authority of Parliament.