

U. H. J. Whereupon ordered that James Bowles and John Rousby Esq^{rs} do go and acquaint the Lower House that his Honour p. 2 requires them to Attend him in the Council Chamber and present their Speaker for his Honour's Approbation.

They return and say they have delivered their Message.

The whole House accordingly attend and present Robert Ungle Esq^r for their Speaker with which Choice His Honour declares himself well pleased

And then his Honour open'd the Session with the following Speech Viz.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly

The happy Agreement between me and the late General Assembly in the Several Sessions gives me great Hope of the like good Harmony with the present now Assembled; for as I have ever preferred the Good of the Country to my own private Interest so I am fully determined to continue in the same Resolution

Gentlemen. I have it in Command from the Proprietor to acquaint you that he has not dissented to the Law for lessening Officers Fees, Believing you yourselves will (as the Multiplicity of Business increases) think fit to put it upon the former Establishment

As to the late Tobacco Law, I cannot say whether his Lordship has, or has not Assented to it; but daily expect Orders from England relating thereto: and in the mean while, whatever may be thought on for the General Good, and Satisfaction of the People, I shall heartily concur in.

Our Militia in my opinion deserves your Consideration for altho we are at perfect Peace with the Indians, and our neighbouring Colonies have happily concluded their Treaties with them; Yet a well Disciplined Militia is a Grace to a Country and necessary upon any Emergency. It was proposed to the Lower House in the Late Assembly that every Captain should have the Power of Levying the Fine on those under his Command, Who absented themselves from the Musters, which would be a means to have the Militia in good Order: But as the Lower House would not then consent to it, I could not think of making any Step without their Concurrence; For I shall ever think it a Duty incumbent upon me (in matters that Concern the General Welfare of the People) [to rely on] both Houses; therefore I recommend this to your Consideration.

p. 3 The Practice of Running Tobacco over Potomack into