

L. H. J. May it please your Lordship

We his Majestys most dutiful and Loyal Subjects the Delegates of the Freemen of your Province of Maryland in Assembly convened return your Lordship our very hearty Thanks for your Speech to the Upper and Lower Houses of this Assembly communicated to us by our Governor Thomas Bladen Esq^r and for the Professions you have therein been pleased to make of having our Welfare so much at Heart

Could We be so happy as to have your Lordship residing amongst us, whereby you might be better acquainted with our Affairs and Circumstances, then you can well be at so great a distance from Us, We perswade ourselves that good Understanding which is so necessary for the General Interest of the Common Weal would at all times be kept up and Cultivated betwixt your Lordship and your Tenants, or did your Lordship think fit to consult with, and put Confidence in the Candid Informations and Benevolent dispositions of the honest and disinterested People here, instead of the more partial Advices of such as we have Reason to think are so real Friends either to yourself or us, it is more than probable we should not have had occasion to complain of the many Aggrievances, we labour under and which are contained in our former Address, which already is or in a short time will be presented to your Lordship; nor can We suppose that your Lordship would otherwise, than from the Influence of such Malevolent Councils have declared your Dissent to our late Act for the Assessment and Payment of the Public Charges, whereby many People have greatly Suffered, and had it not, by the kind and ready Concurrence of our present Governor been timely prevented, the whole Province must necessarily have been involved in the greatest Difficulties and Inconveniences

As We are willing to flatter Ourselves that your Lordship upon cool and deliberate Consideration will be satisfied of the Justness of our Complaints, and thereby be induced to relieve us, we are unwilling at this time to enumerate any new Aggrievances, altho' the withholding from us for a time, the proper Vouchers to support those Complaints, by denying Access to the Public Registrys of the Province, and the preventing us to Tax ourselves for the better maintaining our Rights and Priviledges might well Justify us in so doing We cannot however as well in Justice to your Lordship as to ourselves omit upon this Occasion putting you in mind that your Lordship hath here a large Country as yet uncultivated and uninhabited the Peopling whercof must turn to the Interest of your Tenants and greatly to the Interest of your Lordship as well as to the Trade and Manufacture of Great Britain, and that it cannot be reasonably expected, that those who can remove themselves will continue or that others will settle in a Place where these Properties are not secured by fix'd and permanent Laws, which must always be the Case where