

L. H. J. ways becoming a part of the Legislature and indeed your whole Address is such, as must convince every considerate person, you were sensible of being in the wrong; and therefore you were Resolved to be very angry at being told so; But as that Spirit, which so remarkably Shines through the whole, savours too much of Rancour and violence, to fix an Imputation upon any part of Government whatever, or upon any person in Trust with his Lordship, or me, I shall not follow you in every Paragraph, but only take notice of the few material parts of your Address.

I must put you in mind, the purport of my Message was to shew, not only how improperly, but unwarrantably, you had assumed an Authority of giving Instructions to your members; what I then said was so undeniably true, that you were too sensible, the Evasion used in your first Address “of these Instructions being only private and not Public ones,” must be seen through by a bare perusal of the Intitling and Body of them; therefore you are now drove to another Shift, by pretending, “the Instructions contain not one Article or Matter, which every private person in Maryland, hath not a Right to enquire into, and inform themselves of &c” which assertion, if any thing to the purpose, must mean, that because every person has a right to enquire and inform themselves of &c. therefore every person has a Right to give instructions to my Commissioners for their Conduct; and that Consequently the Lower House must have at least as good a Right to give such Instructions: Thus your reasoning would stand; but it is too weak to impose on any person, since we are not disputing, whether you or any private person may not endeavour to inform your selves &c. but whether you, or any private person have Authority to direct the Commissioners how to Act; and it is beyond contradiction, that your Instructions are such directions.

You urge, that the Present Treaty with the Indians, cannot be said to be, either of Peace or War; and your Reasons are, because there is no precedent Rupture, and that their Demand is to be paid for Land: As to the first, the Indians, (I am informed) frequently insist on a peace to be made or renewed, altho’ no formal Rupture, or Acts of Hostility subsist, merely for the sake of presents; and my Advices from the Northward are, That the Indians Expect at this Time more considerable presents, on account of the Treaty of peace, than for the Lands; as they are very sensible, their friendship is of much greater Consequence, at this Critical and dangerous juncture, than at any other Time, As to their Claim to the Lands, I am persuaded, if you looked on this Matter in the Proper Light, your Duty and Allegiance to our Sovereign would have Restrained you from considering it as a Private Right, or giving any Treaty relating to it, the low Denomination of a Bargaine and Sale. The Title to all the Lands in this Province, is held originally, and founded on a Right from the Crown; The Indians Demand in a peremptory manner to