

L. H. J.
Liber No. 47
November 16

Post-Meridiem.

The House met according to Adjournment.

Doctor Carroll, from the Committee of Laws, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following ingrossed Address, viz.

To his Excellency Horatio Sharpe, Esq; Governor and Commander 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, with the Earl of Holderness's Letter, we assure your Excellency we have that due Sense of our most gracious Sovereign's paternal Tenderness for, and Care of, all his Subjects, which Duty and Gratitude inspire, and are sufficiently apprehensive of the great Danger of suffering a foreign Power to encroach upon any Part of his Majesty's Dominions: We are determined resolutely to repel, in the best Manner we can, all hostile Invasions of this Province, by any foreign Power; and whenever the Circumstances of our neighbouring Colonies may require, or need our Assistance, we shall cheerfully contribute as far as we are able, towards defending them against the Attacks of their Enemies: But as there does not appear, at present, to be any pressing Occasion for imposing a Tax upon the People for these Purposes, we hope, that our Unwillingness to do it at this Time, will be rather ascribed to the real Motive of our Conduct, a prudent Care of, and Regard to, the Interests of our Constituents, than any Disinclination to the Service recommended.

p. 359 On your recommending the Revival of the Act, for Arms and Ammunition, we must (tho' with Reluctance), observe to your Excellency, that under Colour of an Act of Assembly, made in the Year Seventeen Hundred and Four, when this Province was under the immediate Protection of the Crown, the Sum of Twelve Pence per Hogshead on all Tobacco, exported out of this Province, has been and still is, collected and paid to the Lord Proprietary; Three Pence of which Twelve Pence per Hogshead, when that Act was in Force, was, by the Instructions of her most gracious Majesty Queen Anne to her Governor here, applied towards a Supply of Arms and Ammunition; and altho' it is the Sense of this House, that the above-mentioned Act could not continue longer than during the Time the Government of this Province was in the Crown, and therefore, as they conceive, cannot now be in Force, yet it is thought but just and reasonable, while that Duty is collected, that Three Pence, Part thereof, should be applied, as during the Continuance of the above-mentioned Act, to a Supply for Arms and Ammunition, and for this Reason we cannot, consistently with our Duty, and the Trust reposed in us by our Constituents, consent to a Revival of that Act.