

canted on, in the most public Manner, since the same unhappy Cause that calls us together at this disagreeable Season, first obliged me, after my Arrival, to desire an extraordinary Meeting of the several Branches of this Legislature; I presume there is little Occasion for me, at this Time, to repeat the several Arguments which the present Posture of Affairs must suggest to you, as sufficient Motives to prompt you to exert yourselves at this important Juncture. You are not, I conceive, now to learn, that in Pursuance of a Plan to secure a Communication between their Northern and Southern Settlements, and, in Time, render themselves Masters of all the Continent, from Cape-Breton to the Gulf of Mexico, that restless and ambitious People have proceeded to build several Forts on his Majesty's Lands; one especially at a small Distance from the Frontiers of this Province, and have Garrisoned it with a large Body of Regular Troops; that they already extend their Claim to Lands far within the Limits of this Province, and are making great Preparations for enlarging their Conquests; that not satisfied with cutting us off from all Intercourse with the Indian Natives, with whom we have hitherto, it seems, presumed to carry on a Contraband Trade, they have employed Numbers of those Natives to depopulate and distress these Colonies, and have also themselves, committed every Kind of Hostility on our Fellow-Subjects, who have been unfortunate enough to be exposed to their Cruelty and Insults.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
December 12

These, Gentlemen are Circumstances that present to our View no very agreeable Prospect, and I doubt not but the Repetition of them, makes every One of us burn with Resentment, and urges us to take the most speedy and effectual Measures, to prevent the dreadful Calamities that our Posterities must otherwise feel, from the Vicinity of such a People.

What Resolutions the Virginians have hereupon taken, I apprehend you are no Strangers to; and I am encouraged to hope, that the other neighbouring Governments, whom I have solicited, will shew an equal Zeal, and emulate their Conduct. That your Resolutions will confirm the Opinion his Majesty has been pleased to entertain of you, and merit the Confidence that He has thought fit to repose in the Affections and Loyalty of His Maryland Subjects, by distinguishing their Governor with the Honour of Commanding the combined Forces that shall be assembled to oppose the Enemy's hostile Attempts, I entertain the most sanguine Hopes; and that you will generously concur with the neighbouring Provinces, to enable me to answer his Majesty's Expectations and Royal Intention, in honouring me with such a Commission. A Commission, also, from his Lordship the Lord Proprietary, whereby his Lordship, from an earnest Desire and Solicitudine, to contribute to the Restoration of Peace and Tranquility to this, and the other British Colonies, has been pleased to dispense with my temporary Absence from his Govern-

P. 3