

L. H. J.
Liber No. 50
April 17

of the Militia without your Advice; but if you think it necessary, I will issue Orders for that Purpose." That Message was taken into Consideration the Eleventh of the same Month, and on that Occasion, those Gentlemen of this House, who were of the late House, seem to have acted under a Caution, which the Use they began to find was to be made of their former Approbation of your Excellency's Conduct, in sending out the Militia, had taught them; when they joined the other Members of this House in an unanimous Resolve the same Day, that there was no Necessity then of sending out the Militia, as there were Forces then in the Pay of this Province more than sufficient to guard the Frontiers thereof, and in Consequence of that Resolve, on the Fourteenth, sent your Excellency the following Address: "We are greatly concerned to find by your Message of the Seventh Instant, that while there have been a Number of Troops kept up under your Command, in the Pay of this Province, on the Frontiers thereof, more than sufficient for the immediate Defence and Security of the back Inhabitants, there should be Application made to you by Capt. Joseph Chapline, and a Number of those People, for Protection against their Savage Enemies: And we cannot but be of Opinion, that if even a Part of those Troops had been put under and punctually performed the Duty clearly enjoined them by the Law, by which they were raised and supported, there would not have been any Room for those Applications, or the least Pretence for ordering out any Part of the Militia in Consequence thereof. And this Opinion we are confirmed in by the Sentiments of Capt. Joseph Chapline, now a Member of our House, and several other back Inhabitants. And therefore, as the ordering out the Militia is a Measure we cannot approve of, as to what has past, so we think it would be wrong for the present." We presume, if your Excellency had then obtained the Approbation of this House, for sending out the Militia on that Occasion, you would not, in order to have prevented the Settlement of Conococheague being immediately broke up, and to have quieted the People, then in a Consternation by the Account of the Death and Captivation of Seventeen Persons at Opeccan, have ordered out the Militia of Queen-Anne's and Kent Counties, or even Calvert, though it was then a mild Season of the Year: Why then would your Excellency, contrary to the Opinion of this House, at the most severe Season of the Year, and at a Time when not so much as a Report of an Incursion was stirring, send out the Militia of Queen-Anne's and Kent Counties, far distant from the Frontiers, and on the Eastern Side of the Bay? Or, Why the Militia of Calvert now, when may be added to these Circumstances, the Protection we all expect from the Party of Cherokees, who, your Excellency knows, are well encouraged by a proper Present made them this Session, and have engaged to act offensively in our Interest, and other numerous Parties, which, 'tis said, are now on, and coming to, our Frontiers,

p. 42