

L. H. J. the severe Weather that happened after Captain Browne, and Captain
 Liber No. 50 Casson, received my Orders to march, I pass over what you relate
 May 5 concerning these Accidents; neither do I think it necessary to make
 any Apology for proroguing the Assembly on the 8th of March last,
 after your House (as appears by your Journal) dropt all Thoughts
 of doing the Business for which alone you were called together; but
 shall proceed at once to examine the most material Parts of your
 Address, and endeavour to shew that I have not issued any Orders
 which can be called illegal or unnecessary, and that none of the In-
 conveniencies or Hardships which any Companies of Militia are said
 to have suffered, can, with the least Appearance of Justice, be im-
 puted to me.

p. 161 Were I not desirous of avoiding all unnecessary Disputes with you,
 I might enumerate many Instances of Governors exercising far
 greater Authority over the Militia of this Province, before they
 received any additional Power from an Act of Assembly, than has
 ever been exercised since I came to this Government; but as you tell
 me that you have, in your Address, proceeded on a Presumption,
 that the Orders which were sent to the abovementioned Captains of
 Militia, were given by Virtue of the Law, for the Ordering and
 Regulating the Militia of this Province, for the better Defence and
 Security thereof, I shall endeavour to shew, that on that Presumption,
 those Orders were in no Respect unlawful.

That your Constituents may be the better enabled to judge of the
 Merits of your Address, and the Sufficiency of my Answer, I have
 ordered Mr. Green to republish in his Gazette, the several Militia
 Laws that have been made here since the Year 1714, the Titles of
 which are as follows: [Printed in the *Maryland Gazette*, Annapolis:
 April 27, 1758, pp. 1-2; May 4, 1758, p. 1; May 11, 1758, pp. 1-2.]

1st. An Act for the Ordering and Regulating the Militia of this
 Province, for the better Defence and Security thereof;
 which was made at a Session of Assembly, begun and held in this
 City, the 26th Day of April 1715, to continue for Three Years, and
 to the End of the next Sessions of Assembly after the End of the
 said Three Years. [See *Archives of Maryland*, vol. xxx; 277-283.]

2d. An Act reviving an Act of Assembly of this Province, en-
 titled, An Act for the Ordering and Regulating the Militia of this
 Province, for the better Defence and Security thereof;
 which was made at a Session, begun and held the 14th Day of May
 1719, and the Act of Assembly abovementioned was thereby Revived
 and Continued in full Force, from the then present Session, for and
 during the Terms of Three Years, and to the End of the next
 Session of Assembly after the End of the said Three Years, and
 no longer. [See *Archives of Maryland*, vol. xxxiii, 472.]

3d. An Act directing how Fines shall be adjudged against such as
 neglect to appear at Musters;