

L. H. J.
Liber No. 51
April 9

The Gentleman took his Seat in the House.

The Governor communicated to Mr. Speaker, the following Message, viz.^t

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

I herewith send you Copies of several Letters which I have received, since the Opening of the Session, from the Right Honourable Mr. Secretary Pitt, his Excellency General Amherst, and Brigadier Stanwix: By one of which you will be informed that his Majesty, immediately upon receiving an Account of the Success of his Arms on the River Ohio, was pleased to Direct the Commander in Chief of all his Forces in North-America, and the Officer commanding his Troops in this Part of it, to lose no Time in concerting the most proper and speedy Means for compleatly restoring the ruined Fort Duquesne to a defensible and respectable State, or for Erecting another in the room of it of sufficient Strength, and every Way adequate to the great Importance of the several Objects, of Maintaining his Majesty's Subjects in the undisputed Possession of the Ohio; of effectually cutting off all Trade and Communication this
p. 128 Way between Canada and the Western and Southern Indians; of Protecting these Colonies from the Incursions to which they have been exposed since the French built the abovementioned Fort, and thereby made themselves Masters of the Navigation of the Ohio; and of fixing again the several Indian Nationals in their Alliance with, and Dependance upon, his Majesty's Government: Such being the Instructions that the King, out of his tender and paternal Care for the Safety and Welfare of these Colonies, hath been pleased to send the Officer that is appointed to the Command of his Forces in this Part of the Continent, he hath the greatest Reason to expect, that, as his Subjects, the Inhabitants of Maryland, and the Two neighbouring Provinces, are particularly and nearly interested in the speedy Execution of this great and salutary Work, they will be particularly alert and ready to give such Officer all the Assistance in their Power; and it will, as the Secretary of State observes, be Matter of no small Surprize, and must reflect the greatest Blame on your Conduct, should you, in any Point, fail to assist to the utmost the King's Officers who shall be employed on this Occasion. That this, however, will not be the Case, I entertain the most sanguine Hopes; for I cannot think you would wish to lose the Fruits of the late successful Expedition to the Westward, to see the French again in Possession of the Ohio Country, and our Frontier Inhabitants exposed to the dreadful Incursions of their Indian Allies. If you have any Regard for your own Safety, or the Safety and Welfare of your Posterity; if you have any Regard for the Reputation of the Province, or can be animated by the laudable Example of all your Fellow Subjects in the neighbouring Colonies; or if you have the least Sense of Gratitude to the best of Kings, and