

L. H. J.
Liber No. 51
April 29

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the House of Delegates of the Province of Maryland.

May it please you Majesty,

Deeply affected with the severe Loss we in common with our Fellow-Subjects have sustained by the Death of our late most Excellent King, of happy Memory, whose paternal Care the Inhabitants of these Colonies have, so far as their particular Circumstances would admit, experienced in the Course of his long, mild, just and glorious Reign; favourably permit us, most Gracious Sovereign, to condole with your Majesty that melancholy Events; but we should not approve ourselves in any Respect worthy of the indulgent Protection of Providence, did we not derive, and most thankfully acknowledge, the strong Consolation from a Contemplation on the Eminent and Royal Virtues, which constitute and embellish the Character of a good King, and give the best Assurance of a Continuance, under your Majesty's Reign, of the invaluable Blessings which have flowed from that of your illustrious Grandfather: With this Assurance we join in the general Joy which hath been diffused through all the extensive Dominions of Great-Britain, and with the greatest Humility and purest Sincerity of Heart, beg Leave to congratulate your Majesty upon your Accession to the Throne of your Ancestors.

May your Majesty be rendered happy by the Prosperity of a free People, flourishing under the benign Influence of your auspicious Government, by a grateful and adequate Retribution in their zealous Affection and firm Attachment to your Sacred Person; and we most fervently pray, that your Majesty's Reign may be distinguished, as well by it's Length, as it's Felicity, and that there may never be wanting one of your Royal Descendants to fill the Throne to latest Posterity.

But, may it please your Majesty to indulge us, destitute as we are of the proper Means of obtaining Access to the Throne, while we make Use of this Opportunity of humbly expressing our Concern, that this Province has, during the present just and necessary War, contributed so little to the Service of our late most Gracious Sovereign; and our Confidence, that, until a full Enquiry be made into the Causes thereof (which we most earnestly desire) and the People shall be permitted to raise a Support for an Agent, who may lay all the Grievances, which they suffer under the Government of their Lord Proprietary, properly before your Majesty, you will be graciously pleased to continue that favourable Opinion, which, we hope, you have hitherto entertained of your Protestant Inhabitants of the Province of Maryland; than whom, permit us, Royal Sir, to say, your Majesty has not, in all your Dominions, Subjects more Loyal,