

To his excellency Horatio Sharpe Esquire governor and commander
in chief in and over the province of Maryland

L. H. J.
Liber No. 52
June 22

The humble address of the house of delegates.

May it please your excellency,

In answer to your excellency's message of the 20.th we must observe, that, if the letter from the Speaker of the house of representatives of the colony of Massachusetts Bay, addressed to, and communicated by our Speaker, to this house, be the same with the letter, a copy of which you are pleased to intimate, hath been communicated to the Kings ministers; it is very alarming, to find, that at a time when the people of America think themselves aggrieved by the late acts of parliament, imposing taxes on them, for the sole and express purpose of raising a revenue, and in the most dutiful manner are seeking redress from the throne, any endeavors to unite in laying before their Sovereign, what is apprehended to be their just complaint, should be looked upon "as a measure of most dangerous and factious tendency, calculated to inflame the minds of his Majesty's good subjects in the colonies, to promote an unwarrantable combination, excite and encourage an open opposition to, and denial of, the authority of parliament, and to subvert the true principles of the constitution;" we cannot but view this, as an attempt, in some of his Majesty's ministers, to suppress all communication of sentiments between the colonies, and to prevent the united supplications of America, from reaching the royal ear. We hope, the conduct of this house, will ever evince their reverence and respect for the laws, and faithful attachment to the constitution; but we cannot be brought to resent an exertion of the most undoubted constitutional right of petitioning the throne, or any endeavors to procure, and preserve, an union of the colonies, as an unjustifiable attempt, to revive those distractions, which, it is said, have operated so fatally to the prejudice of both the colonies and the mother country. We have the warmest, and most affectionate attachment to our most gracious Sovereign, and shall ever pay the readiest and most respectful regard to the just and constitutional power of the british parliament; but we shall not be intimidated, by a few sounding expressions, from doing what we think is right

The house of representatives of the colony of Massachusetts Bay, in their letter to us, have intimated, that they have preferred a humble, dutiful, and loyal petition to the King, and expressed their confidence, that the united, and dutiful supplications, of his distressed American subjects, will meet with his royal and favorable acceptance, and we think they have asserted their rights, with a decent respect to their Sovereign, and a due submission to the authority of parliament: What we shall do upon this occasion, or whether in consequence of that letter, we shall do any thing is not our present business to communicate to your excellency; but of this be pleased to be

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