

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Maryland.

The Memorial of sundry Merchant Traders and the inhabitants of Balt. Town, in the County of Baltimore, humbly sheweth,

That your Memorialists, having for many Months past, laboured under Disadvantages, from the Interruption and Decay of Trade in this State, and reflecting on the present posture of our naval Defence, and the consequences resulting from an almost total Annihilation of Commerce, unless timely Corrections are made under the Aid and Assistance of Government, for the more effectual Protection thereof, solicit the Attention of the Honorable Legislature, to a State of their Grievances, the Cause of which they have originated, and the Disasters, which they humbly conceive, will in all Probability, arise from ~~their~~ its Continuation.

In doing this, they wish not to dictate the Measures necessary to be adopted, not doubting, but the wisdom of your honorable Body will devise Means adequate to the Attainment of so desirable an End, but in Times of Danger and Distress, when the Safety and Prosperity of the State is the Object, the language of Truth in a Land of Freedom (tho' the Representation may be melancholy and alarming) is highly necessary, that our Rulers may know the Wants, Calls and Distresses of the People, and provide the best Means for their Relief:—

Your Memorialists therefore would beg leave to inform your Honor, that at the Commencement of this War, Measures vigorous and necessary were adopted by the Legislature for Protection of the Commercial Interest of the State, and the Property of Citizens inhabiting on the numerous and extensive Rivers and Waters through the State. — Gallies properly armed and equipped at the public Expence were deemed the best calculated for the Purpose, and happily effected, so long as they were continued in service, ~~and~~ our Enemies were taught to believe, that our Coasts were too well guarded to admit of Depredations on our Trade and People with Impunity, and the Expence, tho' considerable, was amply repaid by the Advantages ^{accruing} to the State in its Defence, but it is with Regret we have of late observed a Relaxation in, and Discontinuance of our Marine, and a Sale of our Vessels of War — a Measure your Memorialists are of Opinion, would not have taken Place, had the Consequences been foreseen, that have of late happened, and your Memorialists have still greater Events to dread

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