

THE  
**MARYLAND GAZETTE,**

[Numb. 537.]

*Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.*

THURSDAY, August 21, 1755.

WILLIAMSBURG, August 8.

On Tuesday last the General Assembly of this Colony met, when his Honour the Governor was pleased to open the Session with the following **SPEECH.**

*Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and  
Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,*

**I** AM truly sorry for the Occasion of calling you together so suddenly; but the unexpected and fatal Defeat of General Braddock, at *Monongahela*, made it absolutely necessary to call the Assembly, that the most vigorous and speedy Efforts might immediately be exerted, to prevent the destructive Effects of an Event particularly threatening this Colony with the most fatal Consequences. The Letters I received from Mr. Orme, Aid de Camp to the General, and from Colonel *Washington*, I shall cause to be laid before you.

*Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,*

As the Road from *Fort-Cumberland* to the *Ohio* is now opened, and our Enemies possessed of great Part of our Artillery; this Colony is extremely laid open, and exposed to the Insults of a barbarous and inhuman Enemy, flushed and elated with their late Success.

This lays you, *Gentlemen*, under an indispensable Necessity of doing every Thing that may conduce to dislodge those Murderers, and preserve our Fellow-Subjects from the base and horrid Butcheries that they have already given us so many exasperating Specimens of, and are impatient to repeat.

I have endeavoured to check their Violence, by ordering out three Companies of Rangers in the three Frontier Counties; but it is with you, *Gentlemen*, to effectuate my earnest Desire of serving my Royal Master, and saving his People, by strengthening my Hands with such Means, as may best enable me to act with Quickness and Force on every Occasion, as the Emergency of our Affairs may require.

The first Preparative is, I conceive, to form and enforce such a Law, as may render the Militia, both able and ready to be useful, when call'd upon to defend their Country; and therefore, I would recommend to you, the forming such an Act, as may oblige every Subject, that is able to bear Arms, to be ready and obedient on all Occasions, to acquire such military Knowledge, and submit to such military Discipline, as can alone make them act with Safety and Honour to themselves, and Utility to their Country.

The natural Bravery of our Countrymen, if ever questioned, is now established beyond a Doubt, by those *Virginia* Forces, who purchased, with their Lives, immortal Glory to their Country and themselves, on the Banks of *Monongahela*.

It remains only to regulate and conduct this Valour, of which our People are so eminently possessed; and then to furnish them with the proper Means for applying it in Action. The Mention of this last Request suggests to me, the unarmed and unprovided State of the Colony; which, with great Concern, I find by an exact Enquiry, that I have just now caused to be made, is such, as requires your immediate Consideration of, and Provision for.

The brutal Savages, who are lurking and prowling about our Habitations to perpetrate the most cruel Outrages, have justly subjected themselves to be considered, rather as devouring Beasts of Prey than hostile Men: Therefore, I hope you will think the Measures taken by our Brethren of *New-England*, expedient for your Safety also, and by giving a Reward for the taking or scalping our *Indian* Enemies, provide such an Encouragement as may induce our People to cut off the Destroyers, before they come to execute their purposed Villai-

nies on our helpless Wives, and poor defenceless Babes, after whose Blood the insatiate Cowards thirst incessantly.

Whatever be determined on in this imminent Danger, I doubt not you will consider, that the putting those Resolutions in Execution will be attended with Expence, which however great and burthenome at present, yet will be rendered less uneasy by the Consideration, to which I hope every one will recur, that it is to preserve to us and our Posterity, the most invaluable, and by all Mankind esteemed, the most dear and most desirable of all human Treasures, **RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTY.**

The Magazine in this City is much exposed, I therefore think it absolutely necessary to have a Guard-Room built, and a proper Guard established, to be by due Rotation constantly in Duty: I hope you will agree with me that this is necessary, and accordingly appropriate a sufficient Sum for building the Guard-Room, and paying the Guard.

*Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,*

The Urgency of every Circumstance attending this unhappy Cause of your Meeting, will, I hope, excite your utmost Diligence, and that you will expedite all your Proceedings with the closest Application and Attention to the important Purpose, which will by no Means admit of any Delay; lest we verify the opprobrious Taunt of our Enemies, who boasted, That they would employ in Actions the Time we wasted in futile and undeterminate Considerations.

*Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and  
Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,*

Never was any Assembly, whereon more immediately depended, not to say the Honour only, but the Preservation and Safety of the Colony. Let our Country's Danger enflame our Bosoms with the most vigorous Resolutions, to signalize ourselves in her Cause on every Occasion, either in Counsel or in the Field; and emulous of the brave Example of our slaughtered Heroes, let us seize every Opportunity to enrol our Names in the Records of immortal Honour, with theirs, whose Obsequies we should celebrate, not with fruitless Lamentations, but with just and animated Vengeance on their Destroyers.

*To the Honourable ROBERT DINWIDDIE,  
Esq; his Majesty's Lieutenant-Governor, and Com-  
mander in Chief, of the Colony and Dominion of  
Virginia:*

The humble ADDRESS of the COUNCIL.

S I R,

**W**E, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Council of *Virginia*, now met in General Assembly, most heartily return your Honour our unfeigned and cordial Thanks, for your truly affectionate Speech at the Opening of this Session, and our sincere Acknowledgments for your unwearied Application to the Royal Service, and the Establishment of the common Happiness and Tranquility of this Country, upon a permanent Foundation.

We esteem it a fresh Instance of your great Regard for the Honour and Interest of this Colony, that you have called us together at this critical Juncture. The unexpected Defeat of General *Braddock*, is an Event which particularly threatens this Continent, and requires the most speedy and vigorous Efforts, to prevent the dreadful Consequences thereof.

Animated, Sir, by your pathetic Advice, encouraged by your Example, and fully sensible of the destructive Schemes of a cruel and perfidious Enemy, we assure your Honour, that, in Conjunction with the House of Burgesses, we will exert our utmost Endeavours to maintain the just Rights of the Crown, preserve our Fellow-Subjects from the Incurfions of the *Indians*, and disappoint the ambitious Views of *France*. The Cause of our

Country, which would bleed at their Success, the Remembrance of our brave, though unfortunate Countrymen, and the Consideration of our Families, which would fall into Want and Desolation, fire us with the most ardent Warmth, to defend our **RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTY**, and to defeat their bold and treacherous Designs, who are plotting the Ruin of Us, and our Posterity.

*To which his Honour was pleased to return the following ANSWER:*

Gentlemen of the Council,

**I** AM greatly oblig'd to you for your kind and affectionate Address, and for the just Observations you make of our Danger at this Time, and your sincere Intention of joining with the House of Burgesses, in maintaining the just Rights of the Crown, and Preservation of our Fellow-Subjects: From these sanguine Resolutions, what may we not expect, with the Countenance of Heaven on our Endeavours?

It gives me infinite Pleasure, in our present unhappy Circumstances, to see you, Gentlemen, so bravely resolute to support and defend our Religious and Civil Liberties; for all which I most sincerely thank you. And I desire to assure you, that I will, to the utmost of my Power, join with you in those necessary and desirable Ends.

*To the Honourable ROBERT DINWIDDIE,  
Esq; his Majesty's Lieutenant-Governor, and Com-  
mander in Chief, of the Colony and Dominion of  
Virginia:*

The humble ADDRESS of the HOUSE  
of BURGESSES.

S I R,

**W**E, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Burgesses of *Virginia*, now met in General Assembly, return your Honour our sincere Thanks for your affectionate Speech, at the Opening of this Session.

The Defeat of his Majesty's Forces under the Command of General *Braddock*, and the Loss of so many brave Men, who gloriously died in the Cause of their King and Country, must naturally affect us with the greatest Concern.

But these unhappy and unexpected Strokes of War, serve only to animate a just Resentment, and engage us to exert our utmost Spirit and Vigour, against a barbarous and inhuman Enemy, the Slaves of arbitrary Power, and the Disturbers of the Peace of Mankind.

Affected by these Sentiments, and influenced by the strongest Principles of Fidelity to his Majesty, and Love to our Country, we beg Leave to assure your Honour, that no Endeavour on our Part shall be wanting, to repel these cruel Invaders of our Properties; being fully convinced, the People of *Virginia* will think no Burthen too grievous, that shall be found necessary for the Preservation of that which is so valuable and dear to them, their **CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.**

*To which his Honour was pleased to return the following ANSWER:*

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House  
of Burgesses,

**I** RETURN you my sincere Thanks for this affectionate and loyal Address: It breathes the true Spirit of Patriotism, it is so expressive of your Duty to the King and Love for your Country; it also strongly displays your just Resentment of the Defeat of General *Braddock*, and the Loss of our brave Countrymen.

It gives me great Pleasure to observe your Intentions to do all in your Power to repel the cruel Invaders of our Properties: Nothing shall be wanting on my Part to assist in so desirable a Work; and what Confidence you may repose in me shall always be discharged with Probity, in these great and important Services.

Letters