

Weeks after the Thing was determin'd on, more than 3000 Men besides 1500 in the Ships of War had been rais'd, 80 Transports and Storeships provided, the Army all embark'd, and the whole Fleet sail'd: And with such surprizing Secrecy was this performed, that I have seen Letters from Gentlemen no farther off than *Philadelphic*, after the Fleet sail'd, mentioning that they had some Reports of an Expedition on Foot, but could come at no Certainty about it. A large Committee of the General Court threw aside their private Business, and apply'd themselves wholly to this grand Affair: But such has been the unwearied Application of his Excellency the Governor, and with such Wisdom, Prudence, and Firmness of Mind, has he concerted and conducted this whole Affair, as can never be equalled; and so many Difficulties has he surmounted, that I verily believe there never has been a Gentleman in the Chair of Government in any of the Plantations, but what would have yielded and sunk under them.

But notwithstanding I am desirous of vindicating the Authors of the Expedition, from having engaged in a rash ill judg'd Attempt, or the Conductors of it, from the Charge of Want of faithful Application; yet I must own, that never any Affair seem'd to be more under the immediate Influence of Heaven, than this has been: and surely none will endeavour on this Account to deprive the Government of their just Share in the Honour of this Action. It is enough to have been the Instruments in the Hand of Providence of bringing about so happy an Event, tho' not in every Circumstance just in the Way and Manner we intended.

I have been inform'd, that the Vote for engaging in this Affair, was carried by one Voice only in 80 of the House of Representatives; and that a Gentleman who voted against it in the Committee, was on further Consideration in favour of it in the House. And every Body has observ'd, that there does not happen once in 20 Years such a Scene of fine Weather in *February* and *March*, as we have had this Year, while we were preparing for the Expedition; and not one Storm in all that ordinarily tempestuous Season, to ruffle our Fleet in their Passage.

Now if there had been any Delay, the Enemy would have received great Succour and Strength; for a Frigate of 36 Guns had been sent from France, earlier than has been known, with Stores, &c. for the Garrison; but by our Cruizers was prevented from getting into the Harbour.

But what is very extraordinary, and looks as if Heaven designed to make the Expedition it's own, and to baffle us in our Measures, however rational, but yet to provide a Cause we were ignorant of, to bring about the same Thing we m'd at, is this: That when our Pacquet was received by Commodore *Warren*, the Circumstances of the Fleet in the *West-Indies* was such, by the Loss of the *Weymouth*, and the News of a French Squadron expected, as that we had no Prospect of more than one 40 Gun Ship being sent us; but a few Days after our Pacquet left the Islands, Orders arriv'd from *England* to the same Commodore, to come with some of his Ships to the Northward, and concert with our Governor the general Service of these Colonies; but without any immediate View to our Expedition, of which the Ministry had at that Time received no Advice. Now it since appears, that the Success of the whole depended on this single Circumstance: For tho' our Advices sent to *England* arriv'd so early, that had the two Ships sent from thence gone directly to *Cape-Breton*, they would have been in Season; yet it so happened, that both the said Ships came hither first, and were too late at *Cape-Breton*, to have prevented the *Vigilant* getting into the Harbour; the Consequences of which must undoubtedly have been the raising of the Siege, if not the Destruction of all our Transports: But this Ship was happily taken by the *West-India* Squadron.

And it is further observable, that when this Squadron was in the *West-Indies*, they were design'd to *Boston*, but being inform'd by a Schooner on the Banks, that our Fleet was sail'd, the brave and generous Commodore, tho' badly supplied with Provisions and Stores, went directly to *Cape-Breton*; or otherwise he might have been too late; but sent his Orders for all his Majesty's Ships then here, or that might arrive; to come and join him; which Orders met the *Eltham*, a Ship of Importance, but an Hour or two before she would have sail'd for *England*.

After our Forces had been landed 7 Weeks, and the large Supply they had of Ammunition was expended, a Ship with Stores design'd for *Annapolis*, unexpectedly arriv'd, and enables them to make such a vigorous hire upon the Enemy, as forced them to a Surrender.

The last Thing I shall observe is, that the very Day after this Surrender, News is brought to our Army of 2500 French and Indians within 7 Miles of them, design'd to relieve the Place.

I could mention many more remarkable Circumstances, and shew a Chain and Coincidence of various Events previous to, and necessary to give this Undertaking Success; but here is enough to prove, that this grand Affair is above the ordinary Course of Things; and whoever believes that God does at all concern himself with human Affairs (much more we that believe the Hairs of our Heads are number'd), must needs conclude this whole Business has been determined and directed by him.

Annapolis, August 9. On Sunday last in the Afternoon, we had a great deal of Lightning and Thunder, which did considerable Damage here, and in other Parts of the Country. A House in this Town was struck by the Lightning, and the Man and his Wife much hurt thereby; as were likewise some other Persons in and near the Town. Several Cattle were killed in the Country; particularly over South-River, 3 Horses standing under a Tree were struck dead upon the Spot, their Riders having just left them, and retired into a House for Shelter. The Ship Expedition, Capt. *Inglish*, lying in Patuxent River, which was just loaded with Tobacco for *England*, had her main Mast split by the Lightning; and a good Part of her Cargo oblig'd to be taken out, in order to reit.

On Monday last the General Assembly of this Province met here, when there was the greatest Number of Delegates ever known on the first Day of a Session. They unanimously chose the Honourable Col. *Edward Sprigg*, for their Speaker; and appointed Major *William Tilghman* to be their Clerk; who were both approved of by his Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency opened the Session with the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,
OUR Meeting at this Time is occasioned by a Letter I have received from the Governor of *New-England*, which shall be laid before you: You will find by it, that we are called upon to give our Assistance, towards securing to the Obedience of our Sovereign, the late Acquisition of *Cape-Breton*. A Matter of such Importance, not only to the Honour of his Majesty's Arms, but to the general Interest of *Great-Britain*, and the Colonies upon this Continent; that I am perswaded we shall readily concur in such Measures, as will give Evidence of our Duty to his Majesty, and Zeal for the common Cause. This Service requiring the first Place in your Consultations, and the speediest Dispatch, I shall postpone the mention of any other Matters to you, 'til we have discharged our Duties upon this Point.

To his Excellency *THOMAS BLADEN, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland;*

The Humble Address of the Upper House of Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,
WE beg Leave to return you our Thanks, for the much you was pleas'd to make us; and to assure you of our Readiness to give all the Assistance in our Power, towards secur-