

Colonies and the Mother Country, and I flatter myself that in case such Letter has been addressed to the Speaker of your House, you will confirm the favourable Opinion, his Majesty at present entertains of his Maryland Subjects, by taking no Notice of such Letter which will be treating it with the Contempt it deserves. —

June the 20. 1760.

Hor. Sharpe.

His Excellency acquaints this Board that in Answer to the above Message, he received the following Address, and requests their Advice thereon —

To His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland —

The Humble Address of the House of Delegates

May it please your Excellency —

In Answer to your Excellency's Message of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 endeavours 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 Subjects in the Colonies, to promote an unwarrantable Com-  
 "ination, excite and encourage an open Opposition 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 endeavours 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 bounding Expressions, from doing what we think Right.

The House of Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, in their Letters to us, have intimated, that they have preferred an humble dutiful and loyal Petition to the King, and express their Confidence that the United and dutiful Supplications, of his distressed American Subjects, will meet with his Royal and favourable 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, it is not our present Business to communicate to your Excellency; but of this, be pleased to be assured, that we cannot be prevailed on to take no Notice of or to treat with the least Degree of Contempt, a Letter so expressive of Piety and Loyalty to the Sovereign, and so replete with just Principles of Liberty; and your Excellency may depend, that whenever we apprehend the Rights of the People to be affected, we shall not fail boldly to assert, and steadily endeavour to maintain and support them, always remembering, what we could wish never to be forgot, that by the Bill of Rights, it is declared, That it is the Right of the Subject to Petition the King, and all Commitments and Prosecutions, for such Petitioning are illegal —

Signed by Order Rob. Lloyd Speaker.