

years by a Land Tax, Excise on Spirituous Liquors, a Stamp Duty, & some other Funds of less Value or Importance; they propose I hear to subject this D^{ns} Burrows to the payment of the Land Tax; w^{ch} will lay me under a Necessity of refusing the Bill, perhaps of putting an end to this as I have done to former Sessions, & shall I am afraid to all future ones unless the Legislature of Great Britain will take the Condition of these Colonies under Consideration & save the respective Assemblies the Trouble of providing for their own Safety. The Assembly of Pennsylvania sat a Month without doing any thing & have adjourned themselves for a Fortnight. The Virg. Assembly is also sitting & I am afraid to as little purpose. This being our Situation I leave you to judge what must be our Prospect; the Enemy increase & destroy our timorous Inhabitants with Impunity, those that are more remote from Danger content themselves with pitying such as are exposed, or perhaps condemn them for Cowardice, but will not move to their Assistance, or unless they can at the same time gratify their own Passions send them the least Support. Was I writing to a Person who had not been conversant with or read the Journals of our Assemblies Proceedings I should be afraid that such an Account might lead him to suspect my Veracity, as it would be natural for him to argue from the palpable Absurdity of what I say with respect to the Behaviour of our People or rather their Representatives that such Conduct is inconceivable & impossible, but to you who must have learnt from Experience that we reason very differently in these parts of His Majesty's Dominions from what His Subjects in Great Britain are apt to do, our Proceedings at this time of the most imminent Danger cannot be very strange