

of it, and tho' it arrives in Safety, yet comes to a late Market, which is generally a bad one; Your own Interest will suggest to You, better than I am able, the proper Remedies to such Evils.

*Gentlemen,*

YOU, in Your several Counties, have had the nearest Opportunities to observe how far the Assize-Law, which is now expired, has answered the Ends proposed by it: I must indeed be of Opinion in general, That such a Law has, or may be at least, of great Ease to Evidences and Jury-men, whose Attendance at Provincial Courts must have heretofore been very expensive and inconvenient to them.

THE Act for Regulation of Ordinaries, expires likewise with this Session: What Reasons induced You last Session to continue it only for one Year, I am at a Loss to determine. Certain I am, that such a Law, when first devised, was esteemed beneficial to the Country; if You are of a contrary Opinion, You will decline it, and their Regulation must return to its more ancient Course.

I cannot but highly commend the Care that has hitherto been taken, to inspect and amend the ill Condition of our Publick Records. Latest Posterity, who must reap the chiefest Benefits from it, will remember the present Age with Gratitude for that Security in their Estates. And, that so commendable a Work may be fully perfected, it may not be improper, for a Committee of both Houses, to inspect what the Commissioners have done therein: This will give them a fair Opportunity of receiving the Publick Thanks, for their Fidelity and Care in Discharge of their Duty.

AS the new Copies may be fittest for daily Use, You will consider, whether a separate Repository for the Old Records, may not be proper to secure Us from a total Loss of all, in case of Fire or other unavoidable Accident.

I am sorry to find, that the Journals of both Houses of Assembly, are not in the same Method for Perpetuity, as other Records are; they would be of the greatest and most necessary Use to Posterity, inasmuch as all Proceedings in Legislation are of the utmost Importance to the Publick: It seems indeed, to require the Recording of them otherwise, than in loose Papers and separate Journals; Ruin and Annihilation will sooner attend them in such Parcels, than if they were transcribed into large and strong Books; without this Precaution, our Transactions in Assembly will be hereafter only known by uncertain Traditions; whereas, Records will speak for themselves and Us, and save our Memories from the Odium of so fatal a Neglect.

*Gentlemen,*

THUS have I premised what at present occurs to Me, worthy Your Consideration; Your own Vigilance for the Publick Good, will, I doubt not, supply the rest; I do earnestly invite You all to the Pursuit of Your real Interest: Avoid Strife and Contention, for of them comes no Profit to any; But, be assured, That such as promote general Unity and Harmony amongst Us, render Service most acceptable to GOD, and most beneficial to their Country. Let not Jealousies and Fears, the Bane of all humane Society, have Place amongst You, consider them as the direful Weapons whereby the common Enemy of Mankind can only destroy an happy People; and then, I doubt not, but You will avoid both them, and such as handle them, generally indeed for their own private Ends, tho' under the specious Pretence of a Publick Good.

FROM the Lord Proprietary, You may ever expect, what in Reason You can ask of Him; He neither desires the Destruction of Your Liberties, nor of His own Prerogative. To Me He gave this just Rule for My Administration, *That Prerogative and Privilege should have each their Due.* To such wise Commands You need not doubt My strictest Obedience. His Lordship's Interest is so interwoven with Yours, that I wonder Infatuation could ever rise so high in some mistaken People, as to doubt his Lordship's Sincerity, when he has so often declared, That He will not be wanting on his Part to make You an easy and happy People; to which desirable End, He is also animated by more noble and generous Motives, than that of Self-Interest; for as His Ancestors first occasioned and encouraged the Seating of this Province, He would imitate their great Example, by a perpetual Care and Attendance towards its Welfare and Prosperity.

To the Honourable Benedict Leonard Calvert, Esq; Governour of  
MARYLAND.

The Humble Address of the House of Delegates.

*May it please Your Honour,*

WE His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Representatives of the Free Men of Maryland, acknowledge the Favour of Your kind Speech to both Houses, at the Opening this Session; and are truly thankful to You for the Honour You have done Us, by causing Our present most Gracious Sovereign to be Proclaimed here, after the most magnificent Manner.

YOUR laudable Example herein, has in the several Counties of the Province, as far as could well be expected, been followed; and We, that We may not be wanting to Ourselves and Country, shall heartily concur with You, not only in a loyal Address to his Majesty, to be presented as You advise, but in doing every other Thing that may manifest Our just Sense of the innumerable Blessings We enjoy under the present most happy Establishment. THE