

My Speaker, and you Gentlemen Delegates, I have repeated Instructions about the four Justices who are appointed to hold the Provincial Courts and Annually go their Circuits twice and am commanded to let her Majesty know speedily how what Provision the Country has made to enable them the better to go through the Fatigue of their constant Attendance on that Duty. Let your Conjunctions therefore be hearty and cheerful while it is in your Power and banish all flattering Whispers which advise you to shew such a pernicious Notion. And you Gentlemen here assembled are wiser than the vast Crowds of her other great Dominion who with open Loyal Hearts run to serve her Sacred Majesty who seems concerned the late Assembly throw out the Bill for punishing those that should raise and disperse false News in this critical Time of War and Danger. I am commanded to offer it now to you Gentlemen the present Delegates, nor can I believe any reasonable well meaning Man to the Government will ever be against it.

Gentlemen, There is an Arrear due to the poor Men employed to serve your Magazines and Arms during our late Disturbances for as it was my very great Concern to preserve the Peace of the Country. I am sure it is your Part to see those paid and rewarded who were so ready and vigilant to serve the Public. And now Gentlemen give me leave to tell you it is high Time for you that represent the whole Province to look into the many Immoralities of this poor deluded Country, where Drunkenness, Adultery, Sabbath-breaking and Perjury are a Jest, horrid Murders stifled, and the Malefactors glory in it; Treasons made a Trifle and the Abettors caroled. Magistrates grow careless and the Offenders impudent; some being made believe by many Souldiers a short Confession here can absolve them from any future Account. Till those Things are in some Measure amended by your Prudence and Examples I have but slender Hopes your Debates can be successful; but as we are all willing to be called Christian and good Subjects let us in our several Stations at like Men of that Noble, Excellent Character; and let that Magistrate be stigmatized with Infamy who ever commits or countenances any sort of Knavery, Atheism or Disloyalty and whenever you will heartily & sincerely endeavour to bring this great Work about I should by the Blessing of God Gentlemen, never doubt of seeing the Country flourish & improve. Nor then Gentlemen the Heathen round about us would never mock at our Religion as Hypocrisie and the rest of the World will see, knowe be continued to your lasting Glory that the People of Maryland truly serve God and with a Dutiful Regard Honour our Lawful and Rightful Sovereign the Queen.

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