

they are protected by a just and mighty Prince that has been so zealous an Asserter of the Liberties of Europe against all the bold Invaders.

The noble Disposition of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the generous Courage he so early exerted in the Field and the numerous Offspring which Providence has given him affords a pleasing View of a continued Series of Happiness to us. What can we desire now but that the good God will preserve such invaluable Blessings to us and make us dutifully sensible of them.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

I am to acquaint you that I laid before you the last Assembly an Instruction from her late Majesty to revise the Laws of this Province and have since received his Majesty's Commands to be observant of those Instructions. The Necessity of this so useful a Work is obvious from most of your Laws being very defective so that I need not enforce any further what is so much to your Advantage; but must recommend ~~it~~ to you to pursue it with Application; my Observation of your past Journal makes it evident to me and your own Experiences will inform you that long and frequent Assemblies are grievous Burthens to the People.

At my first Arrival in this Province I laid before your House a Law lately passed in Virginia for the Improvement of the Tobacco Trade, in which there are many useful Things to advance that Staple in this Country. But having since received an Act of Parliament from Great Britain justly Entituled an Act for ^{the} encouraging the Tobacco Trade which provides abundantly more for your Relief and answers all the Ends of the Virginia Law; I am now of Opinion you will not employ much of your Time in that particular.

The great Condescension of the Crown in parting with so considerable a Branch of the Revenue in your Favour, I mean by passing that Act for the encouraging the Tobacco Trade and the immediate Benefit and Advantages you will reap from it will be demonstrated by the Act itself which I shall send down to your House for your Perusal.

Gentlemen, I am inclinable to impute the Decay of the Revenue here more to Accident in Trade than to any Intention of the good People of the Province to defraud the Crown, but what was at first only the Accident of Trade is now grown into a pernicious Custom by which the Revenue is greatly impaired as will evidently appear by a Law made in an Assembly of the 30th April 1674. To that Law I am referred by my Instruction which I shall communicate to you for your Information.