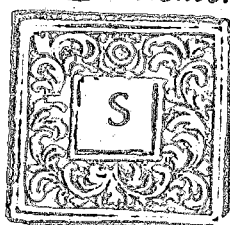


In July ASSEMBLY, 1726.

His Honour the Governour was pleased to make the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,



SEVERAL Petitions having been deliver'd to Me from the Inhabitants of divers Parts of this Province, complaining of the low State Tobacco is reduc'd to; and humbly desiring that the Assembly might be conven'd, in order to fall upon some Method to relieve ourselves in these melancholly Circumstances: I (having nothing more at Heart than the Good of the Province) have thought fit with the Advice of His Lordship's Council, to Convene You, that You may have an Opportunity to make the STAPLE a real Benefit to us:

In Order to which, it will be proper to consider, to what Causes the present low Price of Tobacco is owing, which I take to be chiefly These, *The Sending Home Trash Tobacco, and the Uncertainty of Shipping our Crops*: To prevent the First, it would undoubtedly be the Interest of the Country to destroy the Trash here; for No-body but a Mad-man would ship bad Tobacco, to bring himself in Debt: This would, in a great Measure, lessen the Quantity, especially if Tending of Seconds was prohibited.

And if the good Tobacco was shipp'd at a Time certain, the Merchants might regulate the Market at Home, very much to our Advantage.

This, Gentlemen, is what occurs to me; and I leave it to your serious Consideration.

*Cha. Calvert.*

The Answer to his Honour the Governour's Speech was read and approved of, and follows in these Words,

To the Honourable Charles Calvert, Esq; Governour of Maryland.

The humble Address of the House of Delegates.

May it please your Honour,

WE Return you our most hearty Thanks for your kind Speech at the Opening of this Sessions: And beg Leave to assure your Honour, that it is with the greatest Pleasure we observe you to be constantly Exerting yourself to advance the Interest of this Province.

It is with no small Concern that we find Tobacco, our Staple, reduced to so low a State as it now is; and are fully convinced that the Lessening the Value of that Commodity, is chiefly owing to those Causes your Honour is pleased to attribute it to. And though Tobacco-Laws within this Province have seldom had any other Effect than the utter Ruin of some of the Inhabitants thereof, We shall endeavour to do every Thing that may contribute to the Relief of the People we represent, in their present melancholly Condition, with the greatest Dispatch we possibly can.

Sign'd by Order of the House, R. U. Speaker.

July 13, 1726.

Robert Ungle Mr.