

nemies to his true Interest, and openly and avowedly such to the Prosperity of the Province ) to violate the Rights granted to the People of *Maryland*, in and by the Royal Charter; which however, have not so far succeeded as was intended, and we hope and trust will never have better Success, whenever they shall be attempted for the future.

We have taken the Form of the Oath, mention'd in your Honour's Speech, into our most serious Consideration; and we beg leave to acquaint your Honour, That we conceive it to be so far from Securing to us and our Posterity, the same Measure of Law and Right which our Ancestors and our selves have ever enjoyed, that it is calculated ( we hope contrary to his Lordship's Intentions ) to undermine all, or the greatest Part, of our most valuable Priviledges, and to deprive us of the Means of securing them; which Means we conceive to be the Benefit of all the *English* Laws, securitative and confirmatory of the Rights and Liberties of the Subject; some of which Laws have not yet been put in Execution amongst us, not because they ought not, but because there has yet been no Occasion; and many of those that have been actually put in Execution, especially General Statutes, do not appear by Pleadings on Record, to have been so; and we have no Reporters of Cases determined in our Courts of Justice, nor any other Means that we know of, to transmit to Posterity, what Statutes or Reasons the Judges grounded their Judgments upon; and yet, by the Oath proposed, instead of enquiring, Whether a Statute really affects the Case in Controversy? the Question will be, Whether such Statute hath been heretofore used and practised? Which Question may be made in every Case; and, in Process of Time, a Pretence to deprive us of the Benefit of all the Laws of our Mother Country heretofore made, and hereafter to be made.

We beg your Honour to return his Lordship, our most hearty Thanks, for the Intimation you have been pleased to give us, as from his Lordship, of his Majesty's most gracious Reception of our Address: And we sincerely and heartily pray the King of Kings, to pour his Blessings upon his Majesty, and his most illustrious Family; and that *Great-Britain* may never want one of his Royal Line to sway its Sceptre.

We have perused the Abstract of the *Virginia* Act, for Erecting a Light-house; And, altho' we are willing to contribute, as much as in our Power, to every Thing that may be a Security to Trade and Navigation; yet are we unwilling to burthen the People we represent, or Traders, with any Charge for that Purpose, 'till we can be satisfied, that the Thing proposed is really advantageous.

We are obliged to your Honour for recommending to us the Care of our Staple; which, indeed, is in such a miserable Condition, as requires our utmost Care to remedy; and we will not fail to do all that we can towards it.

We are sorry that your Honour should have Cause to complain of any Suggestions prejudicial to your Reputation: And we do assure you, that we will, as much as in us lies, discountenance all such Suggestions; and that nothing but Actions, shall ever induce us to suspect any Person, much less our Governour, of Insincerity.

As we shall always confine our Desires, to the best of our Understanding, to what shall be just and reasonable, we cannot entertain the least Doubt of your Honour's Concurrence with us.

We are really sorry for your Honour's Indisposition, and shall ever retain a grateful Sense of your Devotion to the Service of the Province of *Maryland*.