

there. This House hath not, as yet, enter'd upon the Consideration thereof, but are unanimously resolv'd, with Vigour and Application, to join with the Lower House of Assembly, in all such reasonable Measures, as shall be propos'd for the Advancement of our Trade, and the Improvement of our Staple of Tobacco, as the most effectual, nay, almost only Means of procuring the Happiness and Prosperity of the Good People of this Province.

WE heartily thank Your Excellency for the good Advice given to both Houses, being well assured, that Unanimity, regulated by Wisdom and Moderation, can only furnish the Means of retrieving a Trade almost lost; of advancing a Staple now render'd almost worthless and incapable of supporting the Manufacturers; and lastly, of recovering the Good People of this Province, from the languishing Circumstances, which the late great Decay of Trade and Mismanagement of the Staple, both here and in *Great-Britain*, hath reduced them unto.

AS it is the principal Business of Legislation to establish as a Foundation, all the possible and most probable Means of promoting the Happiness of the People; And Our Country, as we conceive, do expect nothing less from the Proceedings of this present Sessions of Assembly, We are therefore in Hopes, that no Difference upon this critical Conjunction, will interrupt, or in any Manner obstruct the bringing about the Publick Good, seeing that Your Excellency hath been pleas'd, in so generous and publick a Manner, to assure us of Your own good Inclinations towards the promoting of the real Happiness of His Lordship's Tenants, the Inhabitants of this Province.

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To which His Excellency was pleas'd to make the following ANSWER.

Gentlemen,

*THE kind Terms of your Address, require this Return of Thanks, which I tender to you most sincerely. The Dependance I have on your Zeal for the Publick Good, is a great Pleasure to me, since I promise my self great Assistance from your Advice, in promoting the mutual Prosperity of the Lord Proprietary, and his Tenants.*

BENEDICT LEONARD CALVERT,