

ticularly so in time of War, which you well know We are now warmly engaged in with *Spain*, and must from our different Interests always be in Danger of having with *France*, who is become a near and formidable Neighbour to the *British* Plantations, and seems to have it in her Power to invade most of them, whenever she pleases, in the present Condition they are in.

These are Points, *Gentlemen*, very well worth your Attention, and I hope you will shew your Prudence and Discretion, in the Consideration of them: Let us but imitate the Wisdom of our Mother Country, in Arming ourselves in the best manner that our Circumstances will admit of, and we may reasonably hope to remain free from all Insults here, while the *British* Arms, to the great Joy of all true English Men, are acquiring so much Glory in other Parts of the World.

You may see by the publick Papers what large Sums of Money several of the other Colonies are raising, and what great Preparations they are making for the Defence of themselves and their Neighbours, and I flatter myself that the Assembly of *Maryland* will shew no less Regard for their own Safety, and Zeal for the publick Good than Others, in this very critical Juncture of Affairs.

For my own part, I can very truly assure you, I have no other View but promoting your Happiness and Prosperity, which I shall always do to the utmost of my Power, being fully perswaded that all Gentlemen of Understanding and Humanity in the like Stations with myself, must find more real and lasting Pleasure and Satisfaction in employing the Power they are intrusted with, for the Welfare of the People under their Care, than in any Advantages they can procure to themselves by acting otherwise: And I believe I may justly say, it would have been happy for the People under the several Governments in his Majesty's Dominions in *America*, if they had always made a right use of this Disposition in their Governors, and joined heartily with them whenever it was really for their Interest so to do, and only opposed them when such Opposition was for the Service of their Country.

I am very far from expecting or even desiring you to follow implicitly the Directions of the Government, all that I recommend to you is to weigh with Candour and Impartiality every Proposition that comes before you, without any Regard to the Gentleman it comes from, whether he has a Place under the Government, or wants one, and to approve or reject it, as you think in your Consciences it will be for the Good or Hurt of your Country.

This is so just and reasonable a Method of Proceeding, and so very apparently