

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and with the other Members went to the Council Chamber;

The Governor made the following Speech.

*Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,*

**H**is Majesty having given Orders for the Equipping, and letting forth of an Expedition, against the Territories of the Catholick King in the *West-Indies*, and having been pleased to send his Royal Instructions to me (which I received the 29th of last Month) for raising Troops in this Province for that Expedition, I have in Obedience to his Majesty's Commands called you together as soon as possibly I could, that I may acquaint you, his Majesty trusts and expects his Assembly of *Maryland* will provide Victuals, Transports, and all other Necessaries, for the Troops to be raised in this Province, except Cloaths, Tents, Arms, Ammunition and Pay, 'till their Arrival at their General Rendezvous in the *West Indies*, from which Time the said Transports are to enter into his Majesty's Pay.

I am perswaded by the Chearfulness shewn by every Branch of the Legislature at our last Session for his Majesty's Service, that I need not attempt to add to the Weight, which his Majesty's Trust and Expectations must have with you on this Occasion, only this, that I cannot but think some further Encouragement, by Exemption from Arrests under a particular Sum, will promote the Levies more effectually than any other Method.

A proper Fund for the Defence of ourselves and the Province, must always be of so great Importance (especially at this Time) that my Duty to his Majesty, and Care of his Subjects under this Government, will never suffer me to omit any Opportunity of earnestly exhorting you, to make a suitable Provision for that Purpose; nor can you at the same time be unmindful of what I recommended at the last Session to you, *Gentlemen of the Lower House*, in relation to a Magazine, and an Amendment of our present Militia Law.

These, *Gentlemen*, are Points, which I judge absolutely necessary to lay before you, and press particularly at this Juncture; and they are of such Consequence, that I hope you will give a Preference and Dispatch to them in the first Place, before any other Business you may think fit to proceed on; for I am well assured, you will by such a Conduct, rather than any other, approve yourselves dutiful Subjects to his most gracious Majesty, as well as true Friends and Guardians of the Safety and Well-being of this Province.

And for your further Satisfaction in what his Majesty expects from you, I shall lay before you the Royal Instructions sent to me on this Occasion.

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