

Friday Morning, May 4, 1744.

THE House met according to Adjournment, &c.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the following Letter, viz.

To the Honourable Col. EDWARD SPRIGG, Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Province of Maryland.

SIR,

I Enclosed is a true Copy of a Letter, which was, on the 26th Day of March last, delivered to his Excellency Thomas Bladen, Esq; our present Governor of this Province, from me, relating to his Excellency's building an House for the Governor of this Province, for the Time being, on my Land, without having purchased my Right to any Part thereof, as by the inclosed Copy will appear; and as his Excellency, may probably, in that affair, be deemed but as an Agent for the Country, who may perhaps be esteemed as Principals; and, as for that Reason it may be apprehended, the Notice given to his Excellency by the original Letter, whereof the inclosed is a Copy, is not sufficient for the Purposes for which it was intended, as not being given to the Party immediately concerned; I must therefore beg Leave to take this my first Opportunity, since the last Meeting of the Assembly (which was in the Year 1742), to acquaint the Honourable the House of Delegates, now in General Assembly convened, that his Excellency is now building an House for the Governor of this Province, for the Time being, on a Parcel of Land belonging to me, by Virtue of a Grant thereof from the present Lord Proprietary to my late Father, and Thomas Larkin, deceased, in the inclosed Letter mentioned; and upon a Division of which Tract by the Grantees, a Moiety thereof was allotted to my said late Father, under whom I claim that Moiety, and on Part of which his Excellency is now building the aforementioned House, without having purchased my Right to any Part of it; and altho' that Patent has, by a Decree of the Court of Chancery here, at the Suit of the Lord Proprietary, been order'd and decreed to be vacated and annulled; yet, from that Decree, there is an Appeal depending at my Suit, in order to reverse it; and I am determin'd to carry on the same, not only in our Court of Appeals here, but in case the Decree in Chancery be there affirmed, to carry the same Home for a final Sentence, before his Majesty in Council: And if I so prevail, as to reverse that Decree in Chancery, I shall not only claim (as I now do) the Benefit of that Grant, as to my Moiety of the Land therein described, but shall also claim as mine, as well the aforesaid House, which is now building, as any other Buildings or Improvements, which shall be made on any Part of my Moiety of that Tract of Land, by the said Patent granted, as aforesaid.

And I must now, Sir, beg leave to disavow my having any other Intention, or design, in troubling you with those Papers (which he pleased to communicate to the Honourable the House of Delegates), than to secure my own private Property, and to prevent any Foundation for a future Dispute between the Country and myself, concerning that Land, or any Improvements which are making, or may hereafter be made, on the same, by removing any Claim, or Pretence of Claim, or Right, in or by the Country, or by the Governor of this Province for the Time being, in Behalf of the Country; which might be alledged or set up against