

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

**I** TOOK this opportunity of meeting you in Assembly, according to your Prorogation, as I thought it would not only be agreeable to yourselves, but to the Satisfaction of the People of *Maryland* in general, to have the Assistance of the Legislature at this Time, when our Staple of Tobacco, and consequently every other Branch of our Trade, is in so very low and languishing a Condition.

And I have the greater Hopes that something may be done for the publick Good, as our Neighbours of *Virginia* have shewn us very plainly, that Tobacco may be made a very valuable Commodity; and as their Inspection Law has now stood for many Years, and been improved from time to time, to the general Satisfaction of all Parties, it may perhaps be more prudent in us, to follow their Example, in what has been already tryed, and found by Experience to succeed, than to go upon any uncertain Experiments of our own, however promising they may appear; especially as our former Laws, for limiting the Number of Plants, and burning our Trash, proved to very ineffectual for the Purpose intended.

But whatever Method you may think proper to proceed in, you may be assured of my Readiness to do every Thing in my Power, to help you to overcome all Difficulties, in this, or in any Thing else, that may be proposed for the Happiness and Prosperity of the Province.

And I flatter myself, you are met together with the same good Disposition on your Part; and that you will readily and cheerfully give all the Assistance to the Government, that can be reasonably expected of you, in such Things as the Duty of my Station will always oblige me to recommend to you in a particular Manner, the principal of which is a Provision of Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of the Province; and I hope you will think it the more necessary at this time of real and imminent Danger, as the Legislature found themselves obliged to distribute so great a Part of the Arms, that had been provided for ourselves, to the Forces that were raised here for his Majesty's service; and the Impossibility of providing them any where, but out of our own Magazine, shews how dangerous it might be to us, to have them to look for upon any sudden Emergency.

If any Thing further occurs to me during the Course of your Proceedings, I shall communicate it to you; in the mean Time, you may be assured, that no Man in the Province is more sincerely inclined to promote the Prosperity of it than myself; and that I will make it my constant Rule, never to propose any Thing to you as Governor, that I shall not think for the Good of the Country as a Planter.

Mr. Speaker, and the other Members, returned to the Lower House.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

It appearing to the House, that Mr. *John Dennis*, one of the Members for *Somerset* County, hath accepted the Office of Sheriff of *Somerset* County,

*Ordered*, That Mr. Speaker issue his Warrant, directed to the Secretary of this Province, to make out a new Writ of Election, that the free Voters of the said County may proceed without Delay, to make Choice of a Delegate to serve in this Assembly, in the Room of the said *John Dennis*.

The House continues the several Committees, with the several Clerks, as were last Session.

*Resolved*, That the Hours of Sitting, during this Session, be from Nine o'Clock in the Morning until Twelve, and from Two in the Afternoon until Six.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Dulany* acquaint the Rev. Mr. *Gordon*, that he is desired by the House to read Divine Service, Morning and Evening, during this Session.

*Ordered*, That the Committee of Laws prepare an Address to the Governor, on his Speech.

*The House adjourns 'til Monday Morning 9 of the Clock.*

MONDAY, May 18, 1747.

**T**HE House met according to Adjournment. Mr. *Philip Hammond*, *De Buchanan*, Capt. *Harrison*, Mr. *Browe*, Col. *John Hall*, and Mr. *John Stoddert*, appeared in the House.

Mr. *Hammond*, from the Committee of Laws, delivers to Mr. Speaker an Address to the Governor; which was read, approved, and ordered to be ingrossed.

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