

A sufficient Number of Members to compose a Lower House of Assembly being met at the Stadt House, Col. King and Ma, Hall were sent to acquaint the Governor therewith.

Richard Lee and Benedict Calvert, Esqrs; from the Upper House, acquaint Mr. Speaker the Governor requires the Attendance of the Lower House immediately, in the Council Chamber.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and, with the Members of the Lower House, attended his Excellency in the Council Chamber.

His Excellency the Governor made the following Speech :

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

AFTER our last parting I received a Letter from the President and Council of Pennsylvania, with some other Papers relating to the Indians, which I thought of such Consequence, that I should have been glad to have had an Opportunity of laying them immediately before you for your Consideration; but the Fatigue you had so lately undergone, in coming together at such an unseasonable Time of the Year, and the great Expence that extraordinary Meetings of Assembly are to the Country, determined me to wait the Time of our Prorogation.

You will see by the Papers themselves the Necessity we are under, for our own Safety, of preserving the Friendship of the Six Nations and their Allies, which makes it needless for me to add any thing of my own upon a Subject you have had so often under your Consideration, therefore shall only recommend to you, to give all the Dispatch you conveniently can to the Consideration of the Affair, as the Indians must not only be under a good deal of Impatience to receive the Presents they expect, but are in Reality in great Want of them; and are at the same time strongly solicited by the French, who put every Artifice they can think of in practice, to bring them over to their Interest.

As to other Matters, I have nothing in particular to recommend to you, but the ordinary Allowances for the Support of Government and Defence of the Country, which I hope were so happily settled last Year, as not to admit of any Room for Disputes between the several Branches of the Legislature for the future.

Tho' I should think, if Time could be found for such an Undertaking, that a proper Revision of our Laws might have the happiest Consequences, as the effectual Security of Property in any Country must always be the greatest Inducement to Honesty and Industry, the true Sources of Wealth and Happiness. And indeed our natural Advantages, as to Soil and Climate, are such, that I cannot help thinking it must in some Measure be our own Faults if we do not improve our Condition to a very great Degree; And I flatter my self we have made a happy Beginning by our Inspection Law, which I have the Satisfaction to find meets with a general Approbation at Home, tho' I have not as yet had the Pleasure of hearing our Lord Proprietary's sentiments upon the Subject; but there is no Reason to doubt of his Lordship's approving so necessary a Law, which there can be no just Exception to in the main, tho' it may possibly be mended in some particulars.

Mr. Speaker returned, with the rest of the Members, to the Lower House, and resumed the Chair.

The Governor communicated to Mr. Speaker the following Papers, viz.

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