

Col. *Hammond*, and *Samuel Chamberlaine*, Esq; from the Upper House, acquaint Mr. Speaker, that the Governor requires the Attendance of the Lower House immediately, in the Upper House.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and (attended by the Members of the Lower House) went to the Upper House; where his Excellency made the following Speech, *viz.*

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

I AM very much concerned that the great Progress, the vast Preparations, and the avowed Designs of our common Enemy, whose Encroachments and Depredations on his Majesty's Territories, occasioned our last Meeting, have necessitated the neighbouring Governments to repeat again, most earnestly, their Solicitations for us to engage and unite with them, in supporting his Majesty's just Right and Pretensions to these his *American* Dominions, at this Time attacked and invaded. Some Letters and Papers that I shall submit to your Perusal, will shew to what a Pass Matters are already come; what Armaments have been and are now making against us; what Wrongs and Indignities the Enemy hath already offered; with what Arrogance they presume to obstruct the Freedom of a Commerce that has been enjoyed by our Ancestors, without Interruption, ever since the *English* first made Settlements on the Continent.

The particular and express Orders which his Majesty has been pleased to give for raising Fortresses on the *Ohio*, and the Resolutions taken in a neighbouring Colony, after the most abundant Caution, as they serve to confirm me in my private Opinion, concerning the indubitable Property of the Country Westward of these Provinces, may, I hope, with some Effect be urged to obviate and remove such Scruples and Doubts as have lately been started, about the Extent of his Majesty's *American* Dominions.

Did I think such Motives were wanting, I might set before you the Examples of the several Provinces around us, to warn and incite you to a generous Emulation of the laudable Zeal they have shewn for the common Cause, and to a just Resentment of the Insults that have been offered the *British* Name and Dignity: But from a Persuasion that you will be actuated by more noble Principles, than such as arise from the Fear of Censure, I shall satisfy myself with reminding you, that the Enterprize which the *Virginians* have begun, and the neighbouring Governments unanimously engaged to prosecute, is undertaken for the Preservation of our common Safety, and that it's Miscarriage must be productive of the most fatal Consequences: A due Reflection on this, I am willing to believe, will sufficiently prompt you to a Performance of the Duty we owe our Sovereign, our Fellow Subjects, Ourselves, and our Posterity. How conducive it would be to the Success of this important Expedition, and to our future Security, to prevail on those *Indian* Nations, whom the Artifices and Insinuations of our Enemy have hitherto been unable to seduce, to espouse our Cause vigorously at this critical Juncture, I leave your own Reason to suggest to you; That and the cogent Arguments contained in some Letters that shall be offered to your Consideration, will, I am persuaded, convince you of the indispensable Necessity there is of complying with his Majesty's Pleasure, signified to us by the Lords of Trade, concerning an Interview with the Six Nations at *Albany*; and will also induce you to consent that the Commissioners from this Province, be vested with Power and Liberty to concert Measures, and stipulate with the several Persons that may be deputed thither by the other Provinces, for building Forts and Places for the Reception and Defence of the *Indian* Wives and Families on Occasion, who must otherwise (while the Warriors are engaged from home in our Service) be deserted and abandoned to the Rage of their incensed and revengeful Enemies.

Upon no Account would I divert your Attention from what has been now premised; but as I conceive that the Pleasantness of the Season will, after the Dispatch of what I have been recommending to have the first Place in your Consultations, tempt you to proceed to other Business, I cannot but take Occasion to acquaint you, with the *Pennsylvania* Government's having shewed some Inclination to pass a Law, for the more effectual Punishment of such Persons as shall counterfeit and utter, among them, the Paper Currency of this and the other Provinces; as such an Act would be an additional Support to the Credit of our Currency, I flatter myself you will encourage it's being passed, by preparing a similar Law for the Support of the Credit of their Paper Currency among us.

The excessive Charge and Burthen this Country is at present subjected to, by the great Increase of Pensioners in several of our Counties, I believe, might be hinted at, as calling for, and capable of, a Remedy; if it be truly represented, that the Distribution of the great Sums, annually collected for the Relief of the Poor, as it is now made, instead of being an Encouragement to and Reward of Industry, proves too frequently an Incentiment only to Debauchery and Idleness.

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