

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 (with the rest of the Members of the Lower House) attended the Governor in the Upper House; where his Excellency made the following Speech, *viz.*

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

I MEET you at this Time to give you an Opportunity of providing for your own immediate Safety, and of contributing to the Execution of a Plan, that, in Obedience to his Majesty's Instructions to General *Storer*, has been concerted, for preventing the farther Encroachments of his Majesty's ambitious Enemies on his *American* Dominions, and dispossessing them of what they have most unjustly, and in manifest Violation of Treaties, lately made themselves Masters of. In Confidence that you will keep them Secret, I shall, for your Satisfaction, lay before you a Copy of the Minutes of the Proceedings of a Council of War, held at *New York*, together with some Papers that I received from the General, therewith; whence you will learn what Supplies are expected from his Majesty's several Colonies on the Continent, towards carrying the proposed Plan into Execution: And as I doubt not but you are affected with as deep a Sense of the Danger of suffering the Enemy to make any further Progress, and of your Duty to his Majesty, as any of your Fellow Subjects in the neighbouring Provinces, I persuade myself you will acquit yourselves, on this Occasion, as well as the most Zealous of them; and that you will cheerfully exert your utmost Endeavours to render those Plans successful that are undertaken for our common Safety, and in the Event of which we are so nearly interested.

I need not observe to you, that our Circumstances and Prospect are much altered since last Spring; you are all too well acquainted with the Issue of the Expedition, in which the Troops that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to order from *Europe* to our Assistance, and some of the Provincial Forces, were then engaged, and the Consequences thereof to these Southern Colonies: Most of the *Delaware* and *Shawanese* Tribes, who were then esteemed our Friends, the *French*, by their Artifices, have now withdrawn from their Attachment to his Majesty's Subjects, and instigated them to make our Frontier Inhabitants feel and experience the Calamities of an *Indian* War: With Impunity have these Blood-thirsty Savages laid great Part of Three Provinces Desolate; flushed with Victory they bid us Defiance, and insolently threaten, that their cruel Rage will not be satisfied with less than our Extirpation; But I decline to enlarge on this Topic, lest I should seem to suspect, that your Resentment is not already sufficiently raised by the Conduct of these Barbarians, or that you continue indifferent Spectators of their Transactions: That such a Suspicion would be groundless, and most unjust, I am confident; and flatter myself, that you will let nothing, at this Time, divert you from providing against their Incursions for the future, and for the Services that I have now recommended to your Consideration.

Gentlemen,

As the Reasons that induced you, at your last Meeting, to make an Act for preventing Warlike Stores and Provisions being carried from this Province, to our Enemies, still subsist, you will, I doubt not, think proper to renew the Act; lest any ill-disposed Persons should have taken Advantage of that Act's Expiring, before I could give you an Opportunity of Continuing it, I ordered the Naval Officers to take of such Persons, as should export Provisions or Warlike Stores, Security for their being Landed at some Port or Place within his Majesty's Dominions, as was directed by that Law, and as is done in all the neighbouring Colonies: As this Step was expedient and necessary, I hope it will meet with your Approbation.

I may leave to mention once more the Insufficiency of our Laws to oblige the Service of any one in Defence of their Country, hoping that you will take the same under your Consideration; and as our Safety at this Season, must, in a great Measure, depend on the Militia's being well Armed, Disciplined, and under proper Regulations, that you will supply the Defects of the Militia-Laws at present in Force, with such an Act, as the Situation of Affairs at this Juncture calls for and requires.

Mr. Speaker (with the rest of the Members) returned to the Lower House and re-assumed the Chair.—

On Motion, his Excellency's Speech was read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. *William Smith*, a Delegate returned to serve in this present Session of Assembly, for *Baltimore* County, appeared in the House. Mr. *John Reeder*, a Delegate returned to serve in this present Session of Assembly, for *St. Mary's* County, appeared in the House. Ordered, That Mr. *Paca*, and Mr. *Thomas Reeder*, do go with these Gentlemen, to the Upper House, to see them qualified: They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, that they saw Mr. *Smith* and Mr. *John Reeder* qualified, in the usual Manner. The Gentlemen took their Seats in the House.

Ordered,