

WEDNESDAY MORNING, May 4, 1757.

THE House met according to Adjournment, &c.

Mr. Reynolds appeared in the House.

Mr. Lloyd brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Ingrossed Address, viz.

To his Excellency HORATIO SHARPE, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of MARYLAND:

The humble ADDRESS of the House of DELEGATES.

May it please your EXCELLENCY,

IT gives us great Concern whenever we find ourselves under a Necessity of applying to your Excellency for Redress in any Case, but more especially in the present, as we can't avoid complaining, that former Addresses on the like Occasions have not been so much regarded as we thought we had Reason to hope they would be; and we must particularly observe that nothing has been done, till very lately, in Consequence of our Address of the 9th of October last, "that your Excellency would be pleased to direct the Bonds of the several Sheriffs and Clerks, who had failed in their Duty, to be forthwith put in Suit after the then next Provincial Court, that the large Sums, due from many of them to the Public (and some of them of long standing) might be secured." We were induced to give them till that Time, from the Hopes we had, that the Notice they would receive from that Public Application made to your Excellency, would be such a Warning as would have urged them to an immediate Compliance; but as we find, by the Report of the Committee of both Houses, appointed this Session to Inspect the Office and Proceedings of the Commissioners for Emitting Bills of Credit, established by Act of Assembly, an Extract of which we herewith lay before your Excellency, that very few, if any of the Matters heretofore complained of, are Redressed, we flatter ourselves that your Excellency will excuse us for all the Trouble which this Application will occasion you, when you consider us, till very lately, little acquainted with the Calamities and Expences of War, and consequently put to great Difficulties to find out the most proper Methods, Ways, and Means, to support the carrying on any Designs formed for our Protection and Security. We find many incident Expences daily accruing, which, from Inexperience, we could not foresee, and must necessarily make Provision for: And we clearly perceive, that unless the several Laws we have already made, for Raising Money, be duly and strictly observed, and put in Execution, we shall shortly find the Freeholders of this Province burthened with a heavy and unequal Tax. It is truly discouraging to us to find, that many of the Officers that have been, and now are employed in the Collection of the Public Money, should act in such a Manner as affords us too much Room to apprehend they think themselves secure under the notorious Fraud of Pocketing it; and in others (who can't plead Ignorance of the Laws) such an Omission of Duty as we could not suspect, and which your Excellency will observe by the Report, in Regard to the Conduct of the Naval-Officers of *Patuxent* and Port *Annapolis*, who, notwithstanding they have received the Duty upon Servants for Seven Years and upwards from many Matters of Vessels, have nevertheless omitted to receive it from others, because (as we presume) they have Entered them under the Title of Convicts, tho' the Duty on such Servants is required to be paid at the Time of Entry; and we conceive to have been the Duty of those Officers to have refused to have Entered such Vessels, until the said Duty was paid down, and not to have taken any Import-Bond for it; which, if they did, is an Indulgence unknown to the Law, and for which, we apprehend, the Naval-Officers ought to be answerable.

Upon the whole, we think it our indispensable Duty now earnestly to Request, that your Excellency will be pleased to give Directions, that the Office-Bonds, not only of the abovementioned Naval-Officers, but also of all such other Officers as appear, by the said Extract, to have neglected to pay in the Public Monies, or to have Credited the Public for what has been paid in, or any Way to have failed in Point of Duty, be forthwith put in Suit, and that the proper Steps to compel them to a speedy Compliance, may be vigorously pursued. And here we cannot omit particularly mentioning the Behaviour of the Commissioners of the Paper-Currency-Office, in not giving Credit for the Monies paid into that Office by Messieurs *Trippe*, *Porter*, and *Bradford*, as appears by a Transcript from the Provincial Court Proceedings herewith laid before your Excellency, as to *Trippe*, and as to the others may appear by said Court Proceedings, which we would have laid before your Excellency also, had they been sent up to us as Ordered. And we beg Leave on this Occasion to observe, that one of the Office-Bonds of *Turner Wootton*, late Sheriff of *Prince-George's* County, we are informed, is not to be found: This we conceive to be such a Neglect, that your Excellency will cause strict Enquiry to be made into it.

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