

Col. *Tilghman* brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Report, *viz.*
That the Committee appointed to Enquire into the Disbursement of the Monies raised by several Acts of Assembly, for maintaining the Forces to Guard the Western Frontier of this Province, and into the State and Condition of Fort Frederick, and into the Conduct and Behaviour of the Officers and Soldiers supported in the Pay of this Province. 24 December, 1757.

YOUR Committee beg Leave to lay before the Honourable House, the Depositions of such Persons as it was thought might be able to give Light into the Conduct and Behaviour of the Troops, which have been raised and supported for the Quiet and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province; from which we are humbly of Opinion it appears, that those Troops have been rather an Oppression than a Defence or Security to those unhappy People; and your Committee are in some Measure confirmed in this Opinion, by the Militia's being ordered out by his Excellency the Governor to Range the Frontier Settlements, and thereby compelled to do that Duty, which those Forces were raised and destined to perform; by which Means double Expence has been brought upon this Province; and the People, at the same Time that they are obliged to be Ranging, to save the Lives of their distressed Neighbours.

Your Committee beg Leave further to observe, that it appears from some of the said Depositions, that large Quantities of spirituous Liquors have been sold and retailed in and about Fort *Frederick* for private Profit, without paying any Duty; and your Committee are apprehensive it is too much practised elsewhere, thro' the Negligence of the Collectors; by which Means, if not prevented, the Fund intended to be raised by such retailed Liquors, will be considerably lessened, and consequently the Landholders of this Province to much the more burthened by the additional Tax, which, by Law, must fall on them; but submit the Whole to the Consideration of the Honourable House.

Signed per Order,

William Wilkins, Clerk.

Which was Read, and the House concurs therewith.

On Reading his Excellency's Message of the 1st of *December* Instant: Ordered, That Col. *Tilghman* and Mr. *Dodd* do prepare and bring in an Address to his Excellency, in Answer to the said Message.

The Bill, entituled, *An Act for making Valid the Proceedings of the Session of Assembly lately held at Baltimore Town*, was Read the second Time, and will pass.

The House adjourns until Monday Morning at IX of the Clock.

MONDAY, December 5, 1757.

THE House met according to Adjournment: The Members were called, and all appeared as on Saturday last. The Proceedings were Read.

Mr. *Tilghman*, Mr. *Cornell*, and Mr. *Reynolds*, appeared in the House.

Mr. *Tilghman* 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,

THIS House think it their indispensible Duty to lay before you the annexed Report from their Committee of Aggrievances, and Copies of the Depositions therein mentioned; and hope that your Excellency will exert all your Power in Support of the Civil Government of this Province, and of a due Execution of the Laws, according to the Spirit and Intention thereof; without which we have but too much Reason to fear the Liberty and Property of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province will become very precarious and insecure.

Which was Read and Assented to, and Signed, by Order of the House, by the Honourable Speaker.

Ordered, That Mr. *Key* and Mr. *Wilson* do acquaint his Excellency, That this House hath prepared an Address, to be presented to him, and desires to know when and where he will please to receive it. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, That the Governor was pleased to signify he would receive the Address in Half an Hour's Time in the Conference Chamber.

Ordered, That Mr. *Blair*, with Three more, do present the Address to his Excellency.

Mr. *Key* brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, entituled, *An Act to enable the present Inspector of St. Mary's Warehouse, in St. Mary's County, to sell some Transfer Tobacco in the said Warehouse, and for other Purposes therein contained*, which was Read the first and second Time by an especial Order, and will not pass.

Col.