

Votes and Proceedings, *March*, 1758.

Colonel *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) went to the Upper House; where his Excellency made a Speech to both Houses of Assembly; a Copy of which he delivered to Mr. Speaker; also a Copy of a Letter from Mr. Secretary *PITT*, and a Copy of a Letter from General *JAMES ABERCROMBIE*, directed to the Governor of *Maryland*.

Mr. Speaker (with the other Members) returned to the Lower House, and re-assumed the Chair.

Ordered, That his Excellency the Governor's Speech be Read; which was accordingly in the following Words:

GENTLEMEN of the Upper and Lower Houses of ASSEMBLY,

I MEET you at this Time, in Obedience to a Letter that I have received from the Right Honourable *WILLIAM PITT*, Esq; one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State; the Substance of which is, that his Majesty having nothing more at Heart than to repair the Losses and Disappointments of the last Campaign, and by the most vigorous and extensive Efforts to avert, with the Blessing of God on his Arms, the Dangers impending on *North-America*, and trusting that all his faithful and brave Subjects here will cheerfully co-operate with, and second to the utmost, the extraordinary Succours supplied by his Kingdom of *Great-Britain* for our Preservation and Defence, hath commanded circular Letters to be sent to his several Governors on the Continent, requiring them to convene their respective Assemblies without Delay, and to press them to raise, with the utmost Dispatch, as large a Body of Men as the Number and Circumstances of their Inhabitants might allow, that the same being formed into Regiments, as far as shall be found convenient, might be ready to march from such Places of Rendezvous as shall be appointed, by the First of *May*, or as soon after as shall be any Way practicable.

As his Majesty was unwilling to limit the Zeal and Ardour of any of his Provinces, he was pleased to decline fixing the particular Number of Men that each of them should furnish; but you will see by a Letter from General *ABERCROMBIE*, the Commander in Chief of all the King's Forces in *America*, that it is expected, this Government, together with *Virginia* and *Pennsylvania*, will furnish a Body of Six Thousand Men, to be employed with some of his Majesty's Regular Troops, in such offensive Operations as Brigadier General *FORBES*, who is appointed to command them, shall judge most expedient for annoying the Enemy, and most efficacious towards removing and repelling the Dangers that threaten the Frontiers of these Southern Colonies; while the Troops furnished by the Northern Provinces, in Conjunction with another Body of Regular Forces, are employed in such offensive Operations, as the Circumstances and Situation of the Enemy's Possessions in that Part of the Continent shall point out.

That the Expence to the Colonies might be lessened as much as possible, the Men that they shall respectively raise, are to be supplied with Arms, Ammunition and Tents, out of the King's Stores, and his Majesty's Commissaries have likewise received Orders to victual them in the same Manner and Proportion that his Regular Forces in *North-America* are victualled. The Whole therefore that his Majesty expects and requires from the several Provinces, is to levy, cloath, and pay the Men: And on these Heads also, that no Encouragement might be wanting to the fullest Exertion of our Force, he is farther most graciously pleased to permit the Secretary of State to assure us, that strong Recommendations will be made to Parliament, in their Session next Year, to grant a proper Compensation for the Expences that his *American* Subjects may be at, according as the active Vigour and strenuous Efforts of the respective Provinces, shall justly appear to merit.

GENTLEMEN of both HOUSES,

As I am persuaded this fresh Instance of his Majesty's paternal Care and Solitude, for the Preservation and Welfare of these Colonies, will make the deepest Impression on you, and that you will be extremely anxious to confirm the good Opinion he has been favourably pleased to entertain of his faithful Subjects, the Inhabitants of *Maryland*: That you are sensible how much this Province is interested in the Event of the ensuing Campaign, and thoroughly convinced of the Impossibility of our Frontiers being effectually secured, while the French keep Possession of the Forts they have been suffered to build on this Side the *Ohio*: I doubt not but you will strengthen the Hands of Brigadier *FORBES* with such Succours, as may enable him to answer the Expectations of our most Gracious Sovereign, and deliver us from the Dangers to which we must otherwise be continually exposed.

Ordered, That Mr. Secretary *PITT*'s Letter be Read; which was accordingly.

Ordered,