

Session, as you intended, but allow us Time sufficient to complete the Business now before us; and as this Request is a Matter, wherein not only our own Convenience, but the Interest of the Country, is greatly concerned, we cannot doubt but that your Excellency will comply with it.

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

Ordered, That Dr. *Steuart* and Mr. *Grabame* 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 be pleased to receive it. They return and acquaint Mr. Speaker, That the Governor signified he would receive the Address immediately in the Council Chamber.

Ordered, That Mr. *James Tilghman*, with Five more, do present the Address.
Mr. *Murdock* brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Address:

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,

OUR Attention has been so much engaged in the Bill for his Majesty's Service, that we could not take a more early Notice of the extraordinary Answer your Excellency was pleased to send us to our Address, in consequence of your Speech at the Opening of this Session.

We are sorry to be involved in a Dispute with your Excellency at the Beginning of this new Assembly; but as you have thought fit to enter obliquely, into a Vindication of the Conduct of the Upper House, for refusing Bills so frequently sent them for Supporting an Agent, and by remote Intimations to contest the Necessity of employing One in the Service of this Province, we conceive our Silence might be construed into an Acquiescence in your Excellency's Opinion, and are therefore under an indispensable Obligation to assert the Expediency of exercising a Right so essential to the most important Interests of our Constituents.

In our Address to your Excellency, we had no other Intention in mentioning the Want of an Agent, than to vindicate the Conduct of the late Lower House, and to account for the Generality of the Reprehension contained in Lord *Egremont's* Letter, and repeated in your Speech, which we conceived would have been restrained to the Upper House, had the Subject been properly represented. Hence we inferr'd the Want of an Agent, and the injurious Treatment the People of this Province have met with from the Upper House, by their repeated Refusal of Bills for the Support of a Person in that Character. This being the Case, we think your Excellency had not the least Foundation for engaging in a Controversy with us on this Head, nor can any Design be fairly inferr'd from our Address, of imputing the Miscarriage of the Bills for Support of an Agent to your Excellency, as you are pleased to intimate. We therefore think your Excellency went a little out of your Way, in supposing we intended to include you in a Charge which is expressly confined to them.

Although your Excellency has not entered into a formal or express Denial of the general Necessity of employing a Provincial Agent in *London*, yet if your Reasoning in the particular Instance you mentioned can be supported, it necessarily supersedes the Expediency of employing one on every other Contest between the Government and People. The Transmittal of the Journals and Bills to his Majesty's Ministers seems, in your Excellency's Opinion, to exclude the Necessity of establishing an Agent to represent our Transactions at Home, on the particular Subject of the late Supply Bills. If this Argument be admitted, it will follow, that let the Measures of his Lordship's Administration be ever so oppressive to the People, and the Remonstrances of their Delegates be ever so well founded, your Excellency may also presume, that if the Journals may be supposed to contain a true Representation of their Proceedings, there cannot be that great Occasion which they apprehend for the Support of an Agent, because those Journals have been regularly transmitted for the Information of his Majesty's Ministers. Since, therefore, it seems to be your Excellency's Opinion, that we have no Occasion for an Agent in the particular Instance mentioned in your Message, for Reasons which may be extended to every other Cause of Complaint, we think it amounts to little less than a Doctrine of so dangerous a Tendency to the Rights of our Constituents, that we must insist a little on your Excellency's Patience, while we explain and enforce the Right of the People to appoint an Agent, and the Expediency of exercising that Right. The great End of employing an Agent, is to represent, and bring to a final Determination, any Matters in Dispute with the Proprietary, by which the People may apprehend themselves aggrieved. If the People think themselves aggrieved, they have a Right to apply to his Majesty for Redress. If they have this Right, it follows, that they must have a Right to the Means of giving his Majesty the fullest Information upon the Subject of their Appeals; and this, no doubt his Majesty, from his known Love of Justice and Tenderness to all his Subjects, would require; so that we conceive it not only an Invasion of the People's Privileges, but derogatory from his Majesty's Dignity, to withhold from him the clearest Lights we can give him for the Information of his Judgment. If it be undeniable, that every Individual has, on proper Occasions, a Right to appeal to his Majesty, and to employ any Agent he thinks proper to enforce his Cause, and place it in the most advantageous Light, it follows, *à fortiori*, that a whole Body of his Subjects must have this Right; we hope, therefore, we shall be excused if we say, it is too assuming in a Governor to undertake to judge of the Expediency of the People's having an Agent to support their Interests, when he may be considered as the Delegate of the Lord Proprietary, against whom they may be desirous to exhibit their Complaints, and the subordinate Instrument of those very Encroachments by which they are aggrieved. But besides this, we think your Excellency a little unhappy in your Reasoning; for you infer, that there cannot be that great Necessity we seem to apprehend for the Appointment of an Agent, because the Ministry have been informed from our Journals of the Nature of our Disputes. Now we think your Excellency could not have produced a stronger Instance to shew the absolute Necessity of our having one, unless the Inefficacy of a particular Measure can be supposed to render any other Step unnecessary; for what have