

entitled himself to your Lordship's gratitude, for what he has performed in many Years of faithful Service to you, is with your Lordship; though a Resolution upon the Proceedings of this House will not permit us to say that Mr. *Sharp* always pursued his legal, to the Intercell of the Province; yet we must acknowledge it is our Opinion, that his own Information led him very much towards that desirable End.

Your Lordship's Declaration, that your Interest and that of the good People of this Province are indifferently equal, we are willing to look upon as a happy Privilege; that the Trade is not at all hurt, when we may see a number of Gentlemen who would recommend himself to your Favour, and thus to the Happiness of the Province, in this Object.

That your Lordship is pleased to support in Mr. *Eden's* Abilities, and in Intention to make a happy People, joined to your intimate Conversation, and your Arguments of Affection and Friendship for him, afford us a pleasing Hope, that the Authority you have delegated to him, will be so instructed, as to permit a full and free Exertion of those Abilities, and will by that good Intention, upon all Occasions, to promote the Welfare of the People of *Maryland*; which this we very cordially receive Mr. *Eden* as our Governor; and we cannot but to be well pleas'd upon your Lordship's favourable Opinion, that he will receive from us the Return which we persuade ourselves his Conduct will demand, as the due Rewards of his Merit.

Your Lordship's Offer to encourage any Plan which we may propose for the Improvement of, or Addition to the Happiness of the Province, claims our most grateful Acknowledgments: And though the severe Season in which we are at this Time engaged in Business, and the incumbrance of our public Buildings in which we are oblig'd to transact it, will not permit us now to propose any regular Plan of Improvement; yet our Duty calls upon us to point out to your Lordship, what, in our Opinion, have been some of the principal Causes that have hinder'd to retard the Growth of this Province. The Collection of the 14 *d.* Sterling *per* Tun on Shipping trading to this Province, to your Lordship's private Use, and of the 12 *d.* *per* Hogs-head for the Support of Government, professedly under Laws, which, in the Opinion of the People of this Province, have no real Existence.

The application of Third Part of the 12 *d.* contrary to the known Application of it, while the Law creating that Duty did exist, and the constant Refusal of the Upper House to pass a Bill for the Support of an Agent in *London* to transact the Affairs of the Province in Behalf of the People, together with an extreme Attachment in that Branch to the private Proprietary Interest, and to the Profits of Office, have for many Years greatly disquieted the Minds of the People, and contributed not a little to encrease the public Proceedings, and to obstruct the forming of good and wholesome Laws. And we must beg Leave particularly to observe to your Lordship, that the 14 *d.* *per* Tun is so burthensome to Trade as to be accounted one principal Cause why a great Part of the Produce of this Province is exported through the Channel of *Pennsylvania*, whose rapid Progress in Improvement, from the Spirit of Freedom breathed thro' her whole political System, is scarcely to be paralleled.

The issuing Writs of Replevin out of the Chancery only, is very grievous to the People of the Eastern Shore, and to all others remote from that Office; and though an effect desired, as has been long desired, yet it has been constantly denied to this Time; because, as it now appears from an Amendment made by the Upper House to a Bill sent up this Session for that purpose, the Chancery would by that Means lose a trifling Fee: The Sale of Offices now open and allowed, obliges the Purchaser, by every Way and Means in his Power, to enhance his price; this is contrary to Law, and leads directly to Oppression. The Claim of an annual Salary for the Clerk of your Council, has long been, and still is held up by the Upper House against the Claims of all the public Creditors of the Province, which are not to be paid unless that be allowed, though the Disposal of the Peoples Money doth of Right belong solely to this House. The Upper House have denied us the Means of prosecuting an Appeal to the King and Council, entered into by both Houses, and confirmed by a Law for putting an End to that Dispute; for which Reason, and because we always were, and still are of Opinion, that Claim ought to be paid out of the Monies arising from Fines and Forfeitures, and other Monies, applied by our Laws for Support of Government, and unaccounted for, we are apprehensive Harmony cannot flourish between the Two Houses whilst that Claim is insisted on.

Encouraged by the benevolent Disposition displayed in your Lordship's Message, we have thought these Causes of Disquietude and Non-improvement to your View, in Hopes that your attentive Consideration of them will suggest the Means by which the Removal of them may be effected, and all our Disputes terminated.

It is in your Lordship's Power, and we hope in your Inclination, to redress our Aggrievances; and we beg Leave to assure your Lordship, that it is not from a Spirit of Disaffection to your Government, that we have thus freely laid before you our Complaints, but from a sincere Desire to put an End, by an amicable Settlement of those Differences which have already arisen, being fully persuaded that nothing can so much contribute to your Interest, and to the Peace and Welfare of your Province.