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E X C E L L E N C Y ' S  
S P E E C H,  
T O T H E  
H O N O U R A B L E  
T H E  
G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y

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M A R I L A N D, April the 26th. Anno Domini 1700.

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G E N T L E M E N,

**Y** O U have now had a Year and an half's Experience of me, which I hope will confirm you in the Truth of what I have publickly assured you of, my best Endeavours for your Service, which I promise I will allways justly perform.

I cannot but acknowledge that all your Actions in our last meeting gave me great Satisfaction, for it was managed with that Accord and good agreement, that there was not the least shadow or Colour for any ill disposed People to make any malicious remarks upon: And that good Understanding which we were so happy at first to Create, will I hope be mutually preserved on both sides; as it is my fixed Resolution it shall be inviolably on mine. After which I will give you all the convincing Proofs of what I have solemnly averred, in my Regards for the Province in General, and every one of you in Particular. Wherefore if you labour under any difficulties, I am ready to redress them and assure you I will suppress all unnecessary charges and expences to make you easy, And have the Vanity to believe your Examination of the publick Accounts will convince you of what I have already done in that, not having since the last ASSEMBLY, which is Ten Months ago, Entailed Ten Pounds Charge upon you, or any individual Person in the Province: But on the contrary, Averted what lay in my Power.

G E N T L E M E N,

S I N C E it is and ought to be the Great End of all GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S, to consult the Honour of GOD and the Service of their King and Countrey, the Ignominious Report which is handed about by some, leads me to acquaint you of an Order of his Most Sacred MAJESTY in Council, for the disanulling the Law which is Entituled the *Act for Establishing the Protestant Religion*. The Repealing the said Law, gives no Room to any Person to suggest it's being disanulled to, upon any other grounds then it mentions; you having clogged and loaded it with things of different Natures, which I hope you will wisely Correct without the least Hesitation. For we are happy under the Wings and Protection of a Prince whose Delight is to run the greatest Hazards for the Conservation of our Property's, and never yet obstructed his People in pursuing that Blessed Name of Liberty.

Y O U are sensible how useful Religion is in the good Government of a Nation or Province. It's the uniting the People, the keeping Men good, and deterring them from committing of Rapines of all degrees, upon each other. Much may be said upon this Subject, which is not so proper here, and not being my Talent, neither is it necessary, where I am morally assured those Persons to whom I apply, are so well inclined, and are so good Judges of the Fatal Consequences would attend us in the Loss of that good Law.

G E N T L E M E N,

I shall not here enumerate what other affairs we are to concert this Sessions of Assembly, but will leave you to proceed in the usual way of Conference and Message, being ready to join with you wherein we may promote his Majesty's Service, on which depends the Good of this Province.