

THE EXCELLENT SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Mr. Speaker and you Gentlemen Delegates,

It has been demonstrable to all unbiass'd persons, that I never promoted any separate Interest from yours; since my Admission; and with an honest open Heart I have solemnly assure you, Her Sacred Majesty's Service, and the true Well-are of this Province hath been my only Ambition. And had the Honour to be constituted Governour of Maryland. And if I had not your ill nature Incendiaris had not lately us'd their utmost malicious Inventions to abuse & abuse her Majesty's Order we in carrying of Effects (which could well suppose are to be employ'd to serve their Queen and Country) there had been no occasion for convening an Assembly to late in the Year; Therefore let me enjoin you to lay aside all Animosity, unnecessary Heats and private Biques, that with calmness you may thoroughly consider the publick Interest, with some Regard to the Character her Majesty has graciously given me, being ready to concur with you in what good Laws our Sovereign has with great Tenderness recommended, and others which you may think proper to be presented this Session, for as I am heartily willing to serve the Province to my utmost, I will never give you any just reason to believe, I will ever be a Victim to the selfish and monarchial Spirit of an ungovernable Faction; but as I have always professed Loyalty to God Almighty's Vice-Gerent on Earth with all Sincerity & Friendship, I would gladly inculcate that Honourable Principle into the Minds of every Gentleman here present.

Mr. Speaker, What I have further to offer unto you at this time, is what I recommended to the late Convention, viz. That her Majesty has been pleas'd to disapprove of the Laws lately made here, the one against Masters cropping Tobacco on Board their Ships, and the other about the gauge of Tobacco Hogheads, and commands me to tell you in her Royal Pleasure, that we in this Province conform to the size of these in Virginia, and recommends a new Law to be made for that purpose.

Gentlemen, Her Majesty thinks Sir Thomas Lawrence hardly us'd in respect of the Ordinary Licenses, which her late Attorney General has reported to belong to his Office of Secretary, Mr. Speaker shall have that Report, and her Majesty's Order thereon, and what Orders I have received from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade & Co. or Sir Thomas's Complaint, whereby you will perceive how earnestly her Majesty recommends a Law to appropriate the Lines of these Licenses to his Office for a longer duration of time than three Years, therefore hope you will be so prudent to show your ready compliance herein.

Mr. Speaker and you Gentlemen Delegates, I have repeated Instructions about the four or five who are appointed to hold the Provincial Courts and annually go their Courts twice, and am commanded to let Her Majesty have speedy Notice what provision the Country has made the better to enable 'em to go thro' the fatigues of their constant attendances on that duty; let your concurrence therefore be hearty and cheerful while it is in your power, and banish all flattering flippers, which advise you to swallow such a pernicious notice, that you Gentlemen here assembled, are wiser than the vast Crouds of her other great Dominions, who with open Loyal Hearts run to serve and obey her Sacred Majesty, who seems concern'd the late Assembly threw out the Bill for uniting those that should raise and disperse the News in this critical time of War & Danger, and am commanded to offer it anew to you Gentlemen the present Delegates; Nor can I believe any reasonable well meaning Man to the Government will ever be against it.

Gentlemen, There is an Arrear due to the poor Men employ'd to secure your Magazine, and Arms, during our late disturbances; for as it was my very great Concern, to preserve the Peace of the Country, I measure 'tis your part to see those paid & rewarded who were so ready & vigilant to serve the Publick.

And now Gentlemen give me leave to tell You, it's high time for you that represent the whole Province, to look into the many Immoralities of this poor divided Country, where drunkenness, Adultery, Sabbath breaking & Perjury are a sort, horrid Murders, and the Malefactor's glory in it Treasons made a Trifle, and the Abettors careles'd, Magistrates grow careless and the Offenders impudent, some have made believe by many Seditious, and more than here can absolve 'em from any future Account; Till these things are in some measure reformed by your Prudence & Example, I have but slender hopes your debates can be successful: For as we are all willing to be called Christians & good men, let us in our several Capacities, be like Men of that noble excellent Character, and let that Magistrate be stigmatized with Infamy, who ever connives at, or countenances any sort of Treason, Adultery or Disloyalty; And whenever you will heartily and sincerely endeavour to bring this great Work about, I should by the Blessing of God, Gentlemen, never see this poor Country flourish and improve; For then the Heathens round about us would never mock at our Religion as Hypocrisy; And the rest of the World will see, and be contented to your lasting Glory, that the people of Maryland only serve God, and with a dutiful Regard honour our lawful & rightful Sovereign the Queen.