

... my only ambition is to see the Honour to be constituted Governor of this Province. And if some ill nature'd incendiaries had not lately us'd their utmost malicious artifice to do us such a wrong as to impeach her Majesty's order well meaning & pious (and can it be imagin'd that any body inclined to serve their Queen and Country) there had been no occasion for me to come an Assembly so late in the Year: Therefore let me conjure you by the sacred solemnity of unnecessary Heats and private Fiques, that with calmness you may take into consideration the publick Interest, with some regard to the Character of the Majesty who has graciously given me, being ready to concur with you in what good Laws or Regulations 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 never give you any just reason to believe, I will ever be a Victim to the Arbitrary & Monarchical Spirit of an ungovernable Faction; but as I have always suck'd 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 recommend 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 those in Virginia, and accordingly a new Law to be made for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, 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 Order I have received from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Trade & Plantations concerning a Law to appropriate the Lines of those Licenses to his Office for a longer duration of time than three Years, therefore hope you will be so prudent to give your ready compliance herein.

Mr. Speaker and you Gentlemen Delegates, I have repeated Instructions about the four Judges who are appointed to hold the Provincial Courts and annually go their circuits thro' the Country, and am commanded to let Her Majesty have speedy Notice what provision the Country has made to enable 'em to go thro' the fatigues of their constant attendance on that duty; Let your concurrence therefore be hearty and cheerful while it's in your power, and banish all flattering flatterers, which advise you to swallow such a pernicious notion, that you Gentlemen here assembled, are wiser than the vast Crowds of her Majesty's poor Dependents, 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 a punishing those that should raise and disperse false News in this critical time of War & Danger, and am commanded to offer it again to you Gentlemen the present Delegates; Nor can I believe any reasonable well meaning Man to the Government will ever be against it.

Mr. Speaker, There is an arrears due to the poor Men employ'd to secure your Magazines, and I am commanded to let you know, that 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 diligent to serve the Publick.

And now Mr. Speaker 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, Swearing & Perjury are a lost, horrid Murthers fill'd, & the Malefactors glory in their Treasons made a Trifle, and the Abettors careles'd, Magistrates grow impudent, some being made believe by many Seditious, a short time will be able to absolve 'em from any future Account; Till these things are in some manner repress'd by your Prudence & Example, I have but slender hope your debates can be successful; But as we are all willing to be called Christians & good Subjects, let us in our private Conversation be like Men of that noble excellent Character, and let that Magistrate be priz'd with Infamy, whoever connives at, or countenances any sort of Rebellion or Disloyalty; And whenever you will heartily and sincerely endeavour to do the King's Work about, I should by the Blessing of God, Gentlemen, never see the Country flourish and improve, I see then the Heathens round about us will never look at our Religion as a Novelty; And the rest of the World will be surpris'd to see us, as they are surpris'd to see the people of Maryland truly love their King, and their Country, and their Queen.