

1811

Gentlemen of the *Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,*

THE near Approach of the Time, when Your last Tobacco Law will expire, as to the Stint, I hope will induce You to a serious Consideration, upon the State of Your Staple. If no immediate visible Improvement thereof, by Your last Law, has yet appear'd, That need not, I think, discourage You: The short Continuance of it, could not produce any considerable Effects: A Trade, reduced to such a very languid State, can only revive by Degrees. This I only mention, to obviate an Objection made in general, by Some, as, That our late Tobacco Law hath done no Good. If any better Medium of Relief can be found, to succour Our Staple, happy shall We all be in the blessed Discovery. Ye must all have heard what Our Merchants write on this Subject; which may be, I think, reduced to this Consideration, That, Worse, may yet be Worse, if We do not, on Our Parts, do Something to prevent it.

ANOTHER Matter I must mention, wherein I desire Your kind Advice and Assistance. I have had some Queries sent to Me, by the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, Two whereof I shall communicate unto You. As the Answers thereto, may be of important Relation to this Country, Your joint Advice and Information thereon, will be acceptable to Me: I must be pressing to You, upon this Subject; having Reason to think, that full and speedy Answers to those Queries, may be very much desired at Home, and may possibly prove of Use to Your Selves.

AS this is likely to be the last Session before My Departure for *England*, I earnestly recommend to You, such prudent and wise Course of Proceeding therein, as that I may be able, when-at Home, to make a Report creditable and useful: For, as My Duty will oblige Me to render One, faithful and exact, so will My true Affection to this Province, make Me very desirous, that it should prove Pleasing to Our Superiors at Home, and thereby Advantageous to the good People here.

LET then, real Loyalty to Our most gracious Sovereign, regardful Duty to Our Lord Proprietary and His Government here, with mutual Justice and Good Nature amongst Your Selves, animate and direct Your Counsels: Hence, and Hence only, shall arise the Glory and Prosperity of the Province of *MARYLAND*.

Then Mr. Speaker, and the rest of the Members of this House, return. Mr. Speaker re-assumed the Chair.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House, that His Excellency the Governor was pleased to deliver to him the following Queries, mentioned in His Excellency's Speech.

Q. What Trade has the Province under Your Government, with any Foreign Plantations, or any Part of Europe, besides Great Britain? How is that Trade carried on? What Commodities do the People under Your Government, send to, or receive from, Foreign Plantations?

Q. What is the Natural Produce of the Country, Staple Commodities, and Manufactures, besides Tobacco? And, what Value thereof, in Sterling Money, may You Annually Export?

Mr. Cumming, who was admitted and sworn Clerk of this House, last Session, acquainted this House, That he acted in Friendship to Mr. *Macnemara*, the former Clerk, who was obliged to go to *Great Britain* last Year, and was not return'd when the last Session began: And that, as Mr. *Macnemara* is now return'd, Mr. Cumming requested to be discharged from serving any longer as Clerk to this House: Which Request this House granted and discharged the said Cumming accordingly: And appointed Mr. *Michael Macnemara* to be Clerk, in his Stead. Mr.