

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

It is with great Pleasure that I meet you at any Time, as nothing is more agreeable to me, than an Opportunity of concurring with you in any Measure for the Public Good: At present it gives me a particular Satisfaction, that I can congratulate you with so much Reason, on the Success of our Endeavours for the Advancement of our Staple.

At our Meeting last Year, I took Notice of the general Approbation our Inspection Law met with at home; and expressed my Hopes, that a few Years Experience would make it agreeable to every Body here: Hitherto my Expectations have been fully answered, and I flatter myself, that Time will soon wear away the few Prejudices that may still remain against so very useful, and indeed necessary a Law.

But however justly the several Regulations in this Law may be calculated for the Interest of the Planter, a great deal, as I formerly observed to you, must always depend upon the due Execution of it; therefore I cannot but earnestly recommend this again to your Consideration, that the reasonable Hopes we have of the future Prosperity of our Trade, may not be in any Degree frustrated by any Want of Care and Attention in ourselves.

As to my own Part, you may be assured of my sincere Desire to promote your Happiness in every Respect: It is not only my Inclination, but I look upon it as my Duty, and shall ever think myself happy in Proportion to the Benefit the Public may reap from my Administration.

These are my real Sentiments, and I can truly say, that I have never recommended any Thing to you, but what I sincerely thought for your Interest; even the Three Pence per Hoghead for Arms and Ammunition, which the Duty of my Station must always oblige me to press in a particular Manner, concerns the Government no further, than as it is necessary for the Safety and Defence of the Province, which every Man of Property in the Country is essentially interested in, tho' the Inhabitants upon the Borders must be always exposed to the most immediate Danger; and it is certainly more convenient to raise a small Sum yearly, than to have Arms and Ammunition to provide upon a sudden Emergency, which no Man can tell how soon may happen.

The other temporary Laws you will of Course take under your Consideration; and as I make no Doubt of your good Disposition for the public Service, I hope we shall avoid all unnecessary Disputes, and be able to give such Dispatch to Business, as to make our Meeting not only advantageous but easy to the People.

Mr. Speaker, attended with the Members, returned to the Lower House, and resumed the Chair.

Mr. *Zachariah Bond*, Mr. *James Mills*, Mr. *Philip Key*, and Major *Abraham Barnes*, Members returned to serve in this present Assembly for *St. Mary's* County; and Col. *Thomas Colvill*, and Capt. *Nicholas Hyland*, two Members returned to serve for *Cæcil* County; appeared in the House: *Ordered*, That Capt. *Lee* and Mr. *Wilson* go with those Gentlemen to the Upper House to see them qualified: They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker, that the Gentlemen had qualified in the usual Manner. Thereupon they took their Seats in the House.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Secretary of this Province, to make out a new Writ of Election, directed to the Sheriff of *Baltimore* County, to elect a new Member to serve in this present General Assembly, in the Room of Dr. *George Buchanan*, deceased.

The House continues the Gentlemen on the several Committees, that were last Session.

The House having taken into Consideration his Excellency the Governor's Speech; *Ordered*, That the Committee of Laws do prepare an Address to his Excellency thereon.

*Ordered*, That the Rules of the House of last Session, be observed as such this Session.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Worthington* acquaint the Rev. Mr. *Malcolm*, That he is desired by this House to read Divine Service Morning and Evening, during this Session.

*The House adjourns 'til Tomorrow Morning at 9 o' Clock.*

Wednesday