

SATURDAY MORNING, September 25, 1756.

THE House met according to Adjournment: All the Members appeared as Yesterday, except Mr. John Goldsborough, Mr. Edmondson, Mr. Hammond, and Col. Fitzhugh. The Governor communicated to Mr. Speaker the following Message, viz.

" Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

" IN Compliance with your Request, I send you a Plan of *Fort-Frederick*, and a Letter from Capt. Beall, whence you may learn what are the Dimensions of that Fort, and what Forwardness it is in. There are several Block-Houses or Stocco Forts built on and near the *North-Mountain*, particularly on the Plantations of *Evan Shelby*, *Isaac Baker*, *Allen Killough*, and *Thomas Mills*: They were raised before I went to the Frontiers; neither can I give you the Dimensions or a particular Description of them. I apprehend such a Fort as I have directed to be constructed on the *North-Mountain*, will not be compleated for less than 5000*l*. From the Agents Accounts you may learn how much has been already expended thereon, and the Plan and Letter abovementioned will shew you what Work remains yet to be executed. By the Agents Accounts you will, I presume, also find, that I have drawn on them for a Sum of Money towards defraying the Expence of the Troops that were, with your Approbation, raised and supported for the Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants last Spring, while you were Framing a Bill for his Majesty's Service, and making Provision for their better Security: Some Muster-Rolls and Accounts herewith sent, will shew you how that Money has been expended.

" Gentlemen,

" At the Beginning of this Session, I gave you my Reasons for convening you before the Time to which you stood Prorogued, and, agreeable to his Majesty's Pleasure, and the Earl of Loudoun's Letter, pressed you to appropriate Part of the Sum of Money, lately granted for his Majesty's Service, towards raising a Number of Men in this Colony, with the utmost Expedition, for the *Royal American Regiment*; and your first Address gave me Room to expect you would pay a particular Regard to his Lordship's Requisition, and proceed, without Delay, to Frame a Bill for such an Appropriation of a Sum of Money as I desired: Flattering myself with these Hopes, I was unwilling to interrupt you, or to communicate to you any other Matters, lest you should be thereby diverted from the Business that I concluded you were then upon; but as you have at length been pleased to intimate to me, that I must not expect any Bill for Levying Men, in this Province, for the *Royal Americans*, till towards the Conclusion of the Session, and that which lies before you being not yet Framed, I shall, agreeable to your Desire, communicate to you some other Matters, beside those that I have more particularly recommended to your Consideration. For the better Defence and Security of the Western Frontier, I think a considerable Augmentation should be made to the Troops that have been already raised for that Purpose. Finding nothing less would prevent the fine Settlements of *Conococheague* being entirely broke up, and all that Part of the Country abandoned, I have ordered thither Detachments from the Militia of *Prince-George's* and *Baltimore* Counties, to cover the Inhabitants, and encourage them to remain on their respective Plantations; a Copy of my Instructions, together with Lists of the Names of the Men that are marched in Obedience thereto, shall be laid before you, that you may provide for the Payment of them, and the Persons on whom they have Orders to draw for Provisions.

" Since our last Meeting, I have been obliged to send some Expresses to the neighbouring Governments on his Majesty's Service: The Messengers Receipts shall be laid before you, with an Account for the Postage of Public Letters that I have received, and I hope you will not decline making some Provision for my Reimbursement.

" Gentlemen,

" I am desired to acquaint you, that an Act of Assembly has been made in *Virginia*, to oblige the Masters of all Vessels that shall come into or go out of that Dominion, through the Capes, to pay Twopence a Ton on such Vessels every Voyage, towards building a Light House on *Cape-Henry*, and for placing and constantly keeping a Light therein: As I conceive the Merchants, who Trade to this Province, are equally interested, and would receive as much Benefit from such a Light-House as any Persons in *Virginia*, or the Merchants that Trade thither, I recommend it to you to take this Matter under your Consideration; and if you are inclined to prepare a similar One, the *Virginia* Act shall be laid before you.

HOR<sup>o</sup>. SHARPE."

" September 25, 1756.

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