

thought by all candid and reasonable Men, no more than sufficient for the Purposes they are intended, even in times of the profoundest peace: At present the Situation of Our Affairs certainly require something further from Us for our own necessary Defence

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There is no need of exaggerating the Danger we lately escaped from the horrid Conspiracy of Our Negroes, it being very certain, if they had carried their Design into Execution, We should have been put to the cruel Necessity of defending Our own Lives at the Expence of many of theirs, to the entire Ruin of Numbers of particular Families, and perhaps of the Province in General: And indeed the Danger we must of Course be exposed to, from so large a Body of Slaves, will always be very great, but particularly so in time of War, which you well know we are now warmly engaged in with Spain, and must from Our different Interests always be in Danger of having with France, who is become a near and formidable Neighbour to the British Plantations, and seems to have it in her Power to invade most of them, whenever she pleases, in the present Condition they are in

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These are Points, Gentlemen, very well worth your Attention, and I hope you will shew your Prudence and Discretion in the Consideration of them; Let us but imitate the Wisdom of Our Mother Country in arming Ourselves in the best Manner that Our Circumstances will admit of, and we may reasonably hope to remain free from all Insults here, while the British Arms, to the great Joy of all true Englishmen, are acquiring so much Glory in other Parts of the World.

You may see, by the Publick Papers, what large Sums of Money several of the other Colonies are raising, and what great Preparations they are making for the Defence of themselves and their Neighbours, and I flatter myself that the Assembly of Maryland will shew no less Regard for their own Safety, and Zeal for the Publick Good than Others, in this very critical Juncture of Affairs

For my own Part, I can very truly assure you, I have no other View but promoting your Happiness and Prosperity, which I shall always do to the utmost of my Power, being fully perswaded that all Gentlemen of Understanding and Humanity in the like Stations with myself, must find more real and lasting Pleasure and Satisfaction in employing the Power they are intrusted with, for the Welfare of the People under their Care, than in any Advantages they can procure to themselves by acting otherwise: And I believe I may justly say, it would have been happy for the People under the several Governments in his Majestys Dominions in America, if they had always made a right Use of this Disposition in their Governors, and joined heartily with them, whenever it was really for their Interest so to do, and only opposed them when such Opposition was for the Service of their Country

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