

that House, shall be to you directed, the Secrets of the said House you shall not divulge to the Prejudice of the House, or any Member thereof, but shall in all Things, as Clerk to the said House, well and truly demean your self, according to the best of your Knowledge. So help you God.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 46

M<sup>r</sup> Speaker communicates to the House the Letter refer'd to in the Governour's Speech, from Governour Shirley of New England, which was ordered to be read, and is as followeth.

Boston July 3. 1745

S<sup>r</sup> I have now the Pleasure to send your Honour by Express the News of the Reduction of Louisburg to the Obedienc<sup>e</sup> of his Majesty, & the Surrender of it accordingly; but to maintain our Conquest there which is of the utmost Importance, will require the Assistance of all his Majesty's Colonies & Provinces in North America for furnishing Men Ammunition and Provisions for Garrisoning and defending the Place 'till his Majesty shall order Troops from Great Britain or otherwise signify his Pleasure in this Affair. And I apprehend this to be the most critical Iuncture for securing it from the Attempts of the Enemy to recover it, For it cannot be doubted, but that the French King will soon send a strong Force both of Ships & Troops to reduce it, before we can well be secured in the Possession of it; And you may reasonably Iudge that this Province is already drained of Men, Provisions, and Ammunition: However we are still so heartily engaged in this Service that we have lately sent four hundred Troops who I suppose arrived at Louisburg since the Surrender of it, besides upwards of sixty Seamen for Manning his Majesty's Ship Vigilant & have about two Hundred Soldiers more embarked and ready to embark whom I shall get away with all possible Dispatch, And I cannot but hope your Honour and the General Assembly of Maryland will in Duty to his Majesty & in Regard to the common Interest of all his Subjects in North America make Provision for the raising a number of Soldiers immediately for this Service & have them transported without Delay, and likewise give Orders for the taking up and purchasing all the Gun Powder and Provisions that can be got for the Garrison at Louisburg & the Ships employed there, of both which they are in want, as the General & Commodore inform me as also Provisions for the French Prisoners to be sent Home to France. And as this will require a vast Quantity of Provisions especially. It is my Opinion that no Provisions ought to be allowed to be shipped off from the Plantations where they are raised, to the West Indies, or any foreign Parts whatsoever till this want be supplied, It will likewise be requisite that all the Gun Powder that can be found in your Province, except what may be absolutely necessary for your own Defence, should be secured for his Majesty's Service, and I should think if your Honour will employ some Merchants in

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