

U. H. J. calls us together at this disagreeable Season first obliged me after my
 Liber No. 34 Arrival to desire an extraordinary Meeting of the Several Branches
 December 12 of this Legislature; I presume there is little Occasion for me at this
 Time to repeat the Several Arguments which the present Posture of
 p. 520 Affairs must Suggest to you, as Sufficient Motives to prompt you to
 exert yourselves at this Important Juncture. You are not now I conceive to learn that in pursuance of a Plan to Secure a Communication between their Northern & Southern Settlements and in Time render themselves Masters of all the Continent from Cape Breton to the Gulf of Mexico, that restless & ambitious People have proceeded to build Several Forts on his Majestys Lands, One especially at a small distance from the Frontiers of this Province and have Garrisoned it with a large Body of regular Troops. That they already extend their Claim to Lands far within the Limits of this Province, and are making great preparations for enlarging their Conquests; That not Satisfied with cutting us off from all Intercourse with the Indian Natives with whom We have hitherto it Seems presumed to carry on a Contraband Trade, they have employed Numbers of those Natives to depopulate and distress these Colonies and have also themselves Committed every Kind of Hostility on our fellow Subjects who have been unfortunate enough to be Exposed to their Cruelty & Insults

These Gentlemen are Circumstances that present to our view no very Agreeable Prospect; and I doubt not but the Repetition of them makes every one of Us burn with Resentment and urges us to take the most Speedy and effectual Measures to prevent the dreadful Calamities that our Posterities must otherwise feel from the Vicinity of such People.

What Resolutions the Virginians have hereupon taken I apprehend you are no Strangers to, and I am encouraged to hope; that the other Neighbouring Governments whom I have Solicited will Shew an equal Zeal, and emulate their Conduct, that your Resolutions will Confirm the Opinion his Majesty has been pleased to entertain of you and Merit the Confidence that he has thought fit to Repose in the affections & Loyalty of his Maryland Subjects by distinguishing their Governor with the honour of Commanding the combined Forces that shall be Assembled to oppose the Enemys hostile Attempts, I entertain the most Sanguine hopes that you will generously concur with the Neighbouring Provinces to Enable me to Answer his Majestys Expectations and Royal Intention in honouring me with such a Commission, a Commission also from his Lordship the Lord Proprietary whereby his Lordship from an Earnest Desire & Solitude to Contribute to the Restoration of Peace and Tranquillity to this and the other British Colonies has been pleased to Dispencc with my Temporary Absence from his Government that I may pay the most ready & punctual Obedience to his Majestys Commands shall with the Royal Commission be laid before You: And I will assure You that