

L. H. J.
Liber No. 54
Dec. 20

The Confidence your Lordship is pleased to express in M.^r Eden's Abilities and Inclination to make us a happy People, joined to your intimate Connexion, and your Sentiments of Affection, and Friendship for him, afford us a pleasing Hope that the Authority you have delegated to him may be so unrestricted, as to permit a full and free Exertion of those Abilities, actuated by that good Inclination, upon all Occasions, to promote the Welfare of the People of Maryland. With this Idea we very cordially receive M.^r Eden as our Governor, and we cannot but highly value ourselves upon your Lordship's favourable Opinion that he will receive from us those Returns which we persuade ourselves his Conduct will demand, as the due Rewards of his Merit.

Your Lordships Offer to encourage any Plan which we may propose for the Improvement of, or Addition to the Happiness of the Province, claims our most grateful Acknowledgments: And though the severe Season in which we are at this Time engaged in Business and the incommodious State of our public Buildings in which we are obliged to transact it, will not permit us now to propose any regular Plan of Improvement; yet our Duty calls upon us to point out to your Lordship, what, in our Opinion, have been some of the principle Causes that have hitherto retarded the Growth of this Province. The Collection of the 14.^d Sterling per Tun on Shipping trading to this Province, to your Lordships private Use, and of the 12.^d per Hogshead for the Support of Government, professedly under Laws, which, in the Opinion of the People of this Province, have no real Existence.

The Application of a Third Part of the 12.^d contrary to the known Application of it, while the Law, creating that Duty did exist, and the constant refusal of the Upper House to pass a Bill for the Support of an Agent in London to transact the affairs of the Province in Behalf of the People, together with an extreme Attachment in that Branch to the private Proprietary Interest, and to the Profits of Office, have for many Years greatly disquieted the Minds of the People, and contributed not a little to embarrass the public Proceedings, and to obstruct the forming of good and wholesome Laws. And we must beg Leave particularly to observe to your Lordship, that the 14.^d per Tun is burthensome to Trade as to be accounted one principle Cause why a great Part of the Produce of this Province is exported through the Channel of Pennsylvania, whose rapid Progress in Improvement, from the Spirit of Freedom breathed through her whole political System, is scarcely to be parralelled.

The issuing Writs of Replevin out of the Chancery only, is very grievous to the People of the Eastern Shore, and to all others remote from that Office; and though an easy Remedy has been long desired, yet it has been constantly denied to this Time; because, as it now
p. 57 appears from an Amendment made by the Upper House to a Bill sent