

L. H. J. so well begun in the last Assembly but interrupted by the Death of our late Queen of pious Memory. I am persuaded I cannot open this Sessions with any Thing more grateful (to a People who have already distinguished their Joy) than by congratulating you on the auspicious Occasion of his Majesty King George his being so peaceably seated on the Throne of his Ancestors.

The Lenity with which he has long governed his Subjects in Germany the Deference that is paid his consummate Judgment by all the Princes of Europe are strong Indications how happy a People we may be under the Influence of one of the greatest as well as one of the best of Kings that ever swayed the British Sceptre.

Our Religion is secured in his Royal Person not by the Effect of a refined Policy but by an exemplary Practice of the Truth and Purity of his Principle.

p. 488 Who can doubt our Laws will be maintained and our Liberties preserved when they are protected by a just and mighty Prince that has been so zealous an Asserter of the Liberties of Europe against all bold Invaders.

The noble Disposition of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the generous Courage he so early exerted in the Field and the numerous Offspring which Providence has given him afford a pleasing View of a continued Series of Happiness to us.

What can we desire now but that the good God will preserve such invaluable Blessings to us and make us dutifully sensible of them.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

I am to acquaint you that I laid before you the last Assembly an Instruction from her late Majesty to revise the Laws of this Province and have since received his Majesty's Commands to be observant of those Instructions.

The Necessity of this so useful a work is obvious from most of your Laws being very defective so that I need not enforce any further what is so much to your Advantage, but must recommend to you to pursue it with Application; my Observation of your past Journal makes it evident to me and your own Experience will inform you that long and frequent Assemblies are grievous Burthens to the People.

At my first Arrival in this Province I laid before your House a Law lately passed in Virginia for the Improvement of the Tobacco Trade, in which there are many useful Things to advance that Staple in this Country; But having since received