

U. H. J. Thereupon M<sup>r</sup> Speaker with the members of that House Attend his Excy at this House where he is pleased to bespeak them as follows Viz.

p. 3 Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly

By a Speciall Instruction from the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lords Guilford and Propry dated in London 23<sup>d</sup> March 1718

The Assembly of this Province Stands Prorogued to this present month of Aprill, And tho I am not Hon<sup>rd</sup> with their Lordships reasons for this unusuall Method of Prorogation yet I am perswaded they must have been Extraordinary, And as I have not their Lordships' Commands fforther to Prorogue you, it seems to be their Determined Pleasure you Should meet at this their Appointed time, Therefore Use the Opportunity (which in all Probability will be the last I shall have) to recomend to Your Consideration Severall Important affairs for the good Government and Welfare of his Majestys Subjects in this Province

Gentl.

You are Sensible the Act Ascertainig the Gauge & Tare of Tob<sup>o</sup> hh<sup>ds</sup> Expires on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of Sept Ensuing. This Act Contains three pticulars Essential to Your Ease and Prosperity

1<sup>st</sup> The Provision for the Support of Government.

2<sup>d</sup> The Equivalent given in Lieu of your Quitt Rents and Alienation Fines And

3<sup>d</sup> The Regulation of your Tob<sup>o</sup> trade the Staple and Wealth of Maryland

I must here Acquaint you that I have wrote in very pressing terms to their Lordships for Instructions on the Support of  
p. 4 Government, And on the Equivalent for the Quitt Rents, And tho my Correspondents, inform me my Lett<sup>rs</sup> have been delivered yet I have not rec<sup>d</sup> their Comands thereon Occasion'd as I presume by the Long Course of Contrary winds which retard the Arrivall of the Ships Expected from London, So that I must Confine myself to Offer my own Sentiments on them.

As for the Support of Government the very mentioning of it Implies the Necessity of a proper Provision to be made for Maintaining the Hon<sup>r</sup> & Character of your Governour and Other Judiciall & Ministeriall Officers, with which when Ordered to be Laid before you for your Consent your Compliance is not Doubted.