

U. H. J. Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly  
Liber No. 34

I took this Opportunity of meeting you in Assembly according to Your Prorogation, as I thought it would not only be agreeable to Your Selves, but to the Satisfaction of the People of Maryland in General, to have the Assistance of the Legislature at this time when our Staple of Tobacco and Consequently every other Branch of Our Trade is in so very Low and Languishing a Condition.

And I have the Greater Hopes, that something may be done for the Publick Good, as Our Neighbours of Virginia have shewn Us very Plainly, that Tobacco may be made a very Valuable Commodity, and as their Inspection Law has now Stood a Tryal of many Years, and been improved from time to time, to the General Satisfaction of all Parties It may perhaps be more Prudent in Us, to follow their Example, in what has been Already Tryd, and found by Experience to succeed, than to go upon any uncertain Experiments of Our Own however Promising they may appear, especially as Our former Laws, for Limiting the number of Plants, and burning our Trash. Proved so very ineffectual for the Purpose intended.

But whatever Method you may think Proper to Proceed in you  
p. 157 may be assured of my Readiness to do everything in my Power to help you to Overcome all Difficulties in this or in anything Else that may be Proposed for the Happiness & Prosperity of the Province

And I flatter myself you are met together with the same good Disposition on Your Part and that you will readily and Chearfully give all the Assistance to the Government that can be Reasonably Expected of you, in such things as the Duty of my Station will always Oblige me to Recommend to you, in a Particular manner, the Principal of which is a Provision of Armes and Ammunition for the Defence of the Province and I hope you will think it the more necessary at this Time of real and imminent Danger, as the Legislature found themselves Obliged to Distribute so great a Part of the Armes that had been Provided for Ourselves to the forces that were raised here for his Majestys Service and the Impossibility of Providing them anywhere but Out of our Own Magazine shews how Dangerous it might be to us to have them to Look for upon any Sudden Emergency.

If anything further Occurs to me during the Course of Your Proceedings I shall Communicate it to you in the mean Time you may be assured that no man in the Province is more sincerely inclined to Promote the Prosperity of it than myself, and that I will make it my constant Rule never to Propose anything to you as Governor that I shall not think for the Good of the Country as a Planter

Adjourned till Monday Morning Ten of the Clock.