

A Message from His Excellency *ARTHUR DOBBS*, Esq; Captain-General, and Governor in Chief, in and over his Majesty's Province of *North-Carolina*;

To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, held at *Newbern*, the Twelfth Day of *December*, 1754.

Gentlemen of his Majesty's Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,

HAVING in my Speech to you at your Meeting, told you that I should, in a more ample Manner, lay before you the Grand Plan of *France*, to ruin and distress all the British Colonies on this Continent; I take the earliest Opportunity of laying their wicked and enslaving Scheme before you, that you may see the Necessity there is of granting a reasonable and immediate Supply, and entering into a Plan of Union with all the British Colonies, for our mutual future Defence:

The *French*, ever active and ambitious, under the insatiable and rapacious House of *Bourbon*, whose Ministers having destroyed the Gallic Liberties by the establishing an arbitrary Power in the King alone, have, for near Two Centuries, laid a Plan for enslaving *Europe*, by ruining the Liberties of the *Germanick* Body, and Protestant Interest of *Europe*: Their first Attempt was to ruin the House of *Austria*, by playing the *Germanick* Body against their Head, and raising themselves upon its Ruin; and made Use of the *Germanick* Protestant Powers for that Purpose, when, at the same Time, they were ruining the Protestants in *France*, and depriving the *French* of their Liberties; whilst they were extending their Limits, at the Expence of *Germany*, and the *Spanish* Branch of the House of *Austria*; and by that Means had forced the House of *Spain*, for the Sake of Peace, to intermarry with the House of *Bourbon*, upon their Solemn Renunciation of their Right of Succession to the *Spanish* Monarchy: That fatal Match has been the Cause of the late expensive Wars, and has endangered the Loss of the Liberties of *Europe*; for by the Gallic Intrigues, they have established a younger Branch of the House of *Bourbon*, to govern the *Spanish* Monarchy; which by its Pretention to, and Possession of, above half of *America*, which they claim as their Right only by a Papal Donation, have acquired a Dominion more extensive and rich than any Empire ever known on the Globe: Thus *France*, from a Powerful Enemy, have made the *Spanish* Monarchy a confirmed and potent Ally, with some Hopes, I fear too well grounded, of its being sooner or later united to the Gallic Monarchy.

But the *French*, after Two long and bloody Wars, having been obstructed in their Plan of aggrandizing themselves in *Europe*, by failing in their Attempt of ruining the House of *Austria*, by the Prudence, Magnanimity, and steady Conduct of our most gracious King, the Father of his People, who, supported by the Courage, Wealth, and Naval Power of the *British* Empire, by powerfully supporting and assisting his Allies, hath defeated the Gallic future Schemes in *Europe*: The *French*, mad at their Disappointment, finding that the *British* Liberties and Protestant Interest are secure under his Majesty's Government, and confirmed by the Protestant Succession in his illustrious House; and that *Britain* can't be conquered or reduced but by ruining its Commerce, and with it our Naval Power, have changed their System, and have laid a Plan to ruin the *British* Commerce, by confining, invading, and conquering all our *American* Colonies; by first attempting the Colonies on the Continent; for by securing the Fisheries, and Naval Stores of *America*, they would increase their Marine, and ruin the Commerce, and with it the Naval Power of *Britain*; and then they wou'd divide *America* with the *Spaniards*, and the whole wou'd center in the House of *Bourbon*; for then, by the Assistance of *France*, *Portugal* must fall an easy Prey to the Power of *Spain*, and the *French* wou'd stipulate

stipulate to have the *Brazils*, *Africa*, and *India*, yielded to them as the elder Branch of the House of *Bourbon*; and then the Wealth and Power of *Britain* being reduced, all the Powers of *Europe*, tho' united, could not withstand the united Power and Wealth of the House of *Bourbon*; it being demonstrable, that those who have the Wealth, Power, and Commerce of *America*, *Africa*, and the *Indies*, must be Masters of the Liberties of *Europe*.

The Gallic Branch of the House of *Bourbon*, distinguished of late for their worse than punic Faith, have, for at least a Century, never ended one War, but with a View to extend their Power and Dominions in Time of Peace, by Force or Intrigues, and to prepare for another War; and think it no Crime to invade or inroach upon their Neighbours, who obstruct their Schemes, in profound Peace, thinking themselves not bound by the most solemn Treaties, if they prevent their aggrandizing their Empire.

This has been very notorious formerly in *Europe*, but their Schemes proving abortive there, they have of late prosecuted their Plan in *America*: Have they not, contrary to the most solemn Treaties, deprived us of the greatest and best Part of *Nova-Scotia*, to the Westward of the Bay of *Fundi*? Erected Forts at *Cbinecto*, to confine us within the *Peninsula*? and made another, and are forming a Settlement on the River of *St. John's*, to ruin the Trade of *New-England*, and the *Northern Colonies*, by their Privateers in the next War, when we shall be coup'd up by their Shipping there, and at *Louisburg*? Have not they by their hellish Missionaries, spirited up all their *Indian* Allies to massacre and make Depredations, not only in *Nova-Scotia*, but against all our *Northern Colonies*? Have they not erected a Fort at *Crown-point*, to distress and confine our Colonies of *New-England*, and *New-York*, on Lands which are the undoubted Right of his Majesty? Have they not erected a Fort at *Niagara*, upon the Lands of the Six Nations, our acknowledged and declared Allies by the Treaty of *Utrecht*? Have they not laid a Claim to, and erected Forts upon his Majesty's Lands on the back of *Virginia*, and pretend a Right to all the Lands beyond the Mountains, as far as the *Mississippi*? Have they not, contrary to the Right of Treaties, deprived us of the *Indian* Trade, and seized our Traders and all their Goods, in Time of profound Peace? Have not they privately sent over and increased their Forces, from Time to Time, both in *Louisiana*, and *Canada*? And have not they sent Forces from *Louisiana*, to erect a Fort on the Entrance of the *Ouabach*, or River of *St. Jerome*, into the *Ohio*? Are not these enormous Invasions and Inroachments in Time of Peace? Are not they gaining all the *Indian* Nations, intercepting and depriving us of our *Indian* Allies, and daily instigating their Allies to scalp, massacre, and destroy our Settlers: These are all Facts too notorious and recent to be denied; and must naturally discover to us the whole Plan and Scheme laid by the *French* to confine, conquer, and enslave all our Colonies.

A Scheme grand in its Extent, romantic in Appearance, and even beyond the Power of *France* to execute, altho' the Crown has an absolute Power over all the Private Purposes of his Subjects, when he has a Call for them; provided the Colonies exert their native Force immediately, and repel them to their inhospitable cold Colony of *Canada*, and confine them to the hot Sands of *Louisiana*. The Plan that they have laid, is no less than immediately to confine our Colonies betwixt the Mountains and the Eastern Ocean, by erecting Forts from *Canada* to *Louisiana*, upon the *Ohio*, and Principal Rivers betwixt the Two Colonies, fixing strong Garrisons in them, and so forming a Chain for above 2000 Miles to prevent our corresponding or trading with our *Indian* Allies. When that is done; and they have, by Menaces, or by their hellish Jesuitical Missionaries, made Profelytes of them, not to the true Christian Religion, founded on Peace, Benignity, and Brotherly Love, but to the Poms and outward Trappings of the Popish Hierarchy and Superstition; and have inspired an enthusiastick Fury into them against Protestants, whom they call Hereticks, making it meritorious in them to massacre and destroy them, upon which they assure them their future Happiness depends; then they propose proceeding further, and to seize and secure all the Passes on the Mountains, and head the *Indians* against all our Colonies, and force us to become tributary, or to submit to the arbitrary Government of *France*, and become their Slaves, or be massacred by them and
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their *Indians*, or be forced out of our Religion, Liberties, and Properties; a fatal Dilemma, should they execute their Scheme!

This Scheme, hatched in Hell, and supported by the Court of *Rome*, so iniquitous and unlikely to be brought to Perfection, could never be adopted by the Court of *France*, if they were not pre-possessed that the *British* Colonies were unwilling, or incapable of uniting and exerting their Force; imagining, (for which they have some Grounds,) that the several Colonies are like a Rope of Sand, each guided by selfish partial Views; and that each Planter is more wedded to his own private Gain, than to defend the Rights of his Community, or of the Neighbouring Colonies, and will not part with a Share of his Wealth, to secure the Remainder; imagining, that he will be the last that shall suffer, or vainly expecting, that *Britain* can and will be at the whole Expence, and let them indolently look on; so that before they can be brought to act, the *French* will have formed the Chain, and gain their Ends: They also consider the military Genius of the *French* Gentry, who are all educated with a View to Pomp and Power, and their whole Thoughts are turn'd to support the Glory of the Grand Monarque, and therefore are never easy in Time of Peace, but always forming Projects for aggrandizing *France* by the next War; so that this villainous Opinion they have of the *British* Planters in the Colonies, and the enthusiastic Spirit of their military Gentry, induce the *French* Ministry to undertake Schemes beyond their Power to execute.

If then we give the *French* Time to execute the Scheme they have begun, the Liberties, Properties, and Protestant Religion in these Colonies, will be unavoidably lost.

How miserable must be the Condition then of all our Colonies, when confined within the Mountains, deprived of all the Inland Trade of the Continent, and the *Indians*, from being our faithful Allies, obliged to become our inveterate Enemies; drove by them from the Mountains toward the Sea Coast, our Sea Coast attacked by flying *French* Squadrons, and Privateers: In this Situation we must submit to be Slaves to *France*, become their hewers of Wood, and drawers of Water, supporting them with most enormous Taxes.

God Almighty, who by his Providence under the Conduct of our *Messiah*, hath, in many remarkable Instances, defeated all *Papist* Schemes, when the Protestant Interest and Liberties of *Britain* seem'd to be at the Brink of Ruin: Our *Messiah*, who is ever a beneficent Guardian to his true Protestant Church, founded on Justice, Humanity, and social Love, hath now put it into our Power to make their whole Scheme abortive; if we exert our whole Native Force without loss of Time, by infatuating their Councils, and permitting them to discover and enter upon the Execution of their Plan, before they are prepared and strengthened by a sufficient Force from *France*; it being evident at present, that we out-number the *French* Colonies upon this Continent by above Forty to One, and are yet strengthened with many brave *Indian* Allies; so that we vastly exceed both in Wealth and Number all the *French* upon the Continent, or those they can support, if sent from *France*, in their present inhospitable Colonies.

Great-Britain, which has formed and nursed up these Colonies from their Infancy to a State of Manhood, and hath greatly increased their Numbers and Wealth, by protecting them hitherto, and sending or permitting many *British* Families to come and settle in their Colonies; and who, by their mild free Government, have encouraged many Foreign Protestants to come over and settle and increase their Numbers; and though they are loaded with Debts and enormous, tho' necessary, Taxes; hath not only protected these Colonies, but indulged them in paying a small Quit-Rent, and the easiest Taxes (spent in their own Support,) of any civilized Nation on the Globe. Whilst *Britain*, and every State in *Europe*, are loaded with Taxes, and most of the trading Nations with heavy Debts; whilst *Britain* is struggling under these Difficulties, altho' the Parliament hath a Power of taxing the Colonies for their own Support, by taking off the Premiums they pay us for some of our Exports, and laying on Duties upon what we export to *Britain*, or elsewhere; yet his Majesty, in Regard to his faithful Colonies, is only desirous that they should unite and form a Society amongst themselves, to raise a proper and adequate Quota or Fund for their mutual Support and Defence, that the united Force of the Colonies may act together and have its due Weight; and leaves it to the Colonies, to consider of the most equitable and proper Method of raising the Taxes which are necessary for the Support

Support of his Government, their own Peace and Safety; and a reasonable Sum from each of the Colonies to be laid up as a Fund, to support and increase our *Indian* Allies, and to prevent all Foreign Invasions and Incroachments: And if *France* shou'd still go on with their romantic Scheme, when they see we shall exert our whole Native Force, and should pour in Troops from *France* to enslave us, then his Majesty will exert his Power, and maintain the Rights of *Britain* by their Naval Power, and enable the Colonies to support their just Rights and Properties.

In this critical Situation, let us, his Majesty's faithful Subjects of the Colony of *North-Carolina*, shew that we are true Sons of *Britain*, whose Ancestors have been ever famous for defending their valuable Religion, and Liberties; and that we are still inspired with the same Spirit of Liberty, and are determined to support our Religious and Civil Rights, and hand them down to our Posterity: Let us shew, that tho' we are one of the latest settled Colonies, and scarcely arrived at the State of Manhood that our neighbouring Colonies have attained to, either in Wealth or Number, yet that we are still ready to exert our Power, and grant an immediate Supply to assist in the General Defence of the Colonies; and that as we have already shewn a good Example, so we shall continue to be a laudable Precedent to the rest of the more opulent Colonies; and instead of entering into Private Party Quarrels, as some have done, or postponing or putting off proper Supplies, as some others have done, by an ill-judged Oeconomy, or out of a penurious selfish Consideration, as some Proprietary and Charter Colonies have done, vainly imagining that the Danger is at a Distance, and that they will leave the Brunt of it to others; and that *Britain*, loaded with Debts and Taxes, will defend them, and indulge them in living without Taxes, or assisting in the General Defence of the Colonies. Let us then cheerfully give what is reasonable and proper for us, by an immediate Supply, as well knowing that a moderate Sum now granted, will go farther in securing our Rights and Properties, than Ten Times as much if longer delayed: Let us then inspire the other Colonies with an equal Fire to maintain their Religion and Liberties, and to preserve the Friendship, and defend the Rights of our *Indian* Allies. This, as grateful Men, we owe to them, for the Happiness we enjoy in possessing these fine Climates and rich Lands of *America*, which was once theirs, either by Possession or Conquest; this we owe to them, as free Men and true Christians, to promote their Happiness, and make them Partakers of our happy Constitution, and extending it thro' the Continent, by endeavouring to civilize and incorporate with them, and to lay a Foundation for their becoming Christians; and this true Christian Zeal will heap Blessings upon all our Colonies and our Posterity.

Let us then behave like generous brave Men and true Christians; for a little while confine our Appetites and Luxuries, and part with a reasonable Part of our Wealth to preserve the Remainder, and our happy Constitution in Church and State, to our latest Posterity; this will shew the Gallic Monarch, and his insatiable Ministry, that we are not to be intimidated or to be bullied out of our Rights, and that if he should insist upon his romantic Scheme of surrounding, confining, and enslaving us, that we will jointly and unanimously support our valuable Religion, Liberties, and Properties, with our Lives and Fortunes; and that whilst we behave like brave Men, and true Christians, we are sure of the Protection of God our *Messiah*, and that we shall not only be happy in this World, but to endless Ages.

