

At a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the Port of *Annapolis*, in the Province of *Maryland* on the Sixteenth Day of *March*, Anno Domini 170¹/₂.

An Act for the Establishment of Religious Worship in this Province according to the Church of *England*. And for the Maintenance of Ministers.

FORASMUCH as in a well-grounded Christian Common-Wealth, Matters concerning Religion and the Honour of God ought in the first place to be taken into Consideration, and honest Endeavours to attain to such good Ends countenanced and encouraged, as being not only most acceptable to God, but the best Way and Means to obtain his Mercy, and a Blessing upon a People or Country :

Be it therefore Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly, and by Authority of the same, That the Book of Common-Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church according to the Uses of the Church of England, the Psalter or Psalms of David, and Morning and Evening Prayer therein contained, be solemnly Read by all and every Minister or Reader in every Church which now is or hereafter shall be Settled and Established within this Province; and that all Congregations and Places for the publick Worship, according to the Usage of the Church of *England* within this Province, for the Maintenance of whose Ministers, and of the Persons Officiating therein, any certain Income or Revenue is, or shall by the Laws of this Province be Established, and enjoyned to be raised or paid, shall be Deemed, Settled, and Established Churches.

The Common-Prayer Established in this Province.

Places of publick Worship.

And for the Encouragement of Faithful and able Ministers Labouring in the Work of the Gospel, to come and reside in this Province; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That a Tax or Assessment of Forty Pounds of Tobacco per Poll, be Yearly and every Year successively Levied upon every Taxable Person within each Respective Parish within this Province, as they have been, now are, or hereafter shall be Laid out, Limited and Appointed by the Laws of this Province, and Entered upon Record, as the said former Laws therein did Direct; which said Assessment of Forty Pounds of Tobacco per Poll shall always be paid and allowed to the Minister of each Respective Parish, having no other Benefice to Officiate in, Presented, Inducted, or Appointed by his Excellency the Governour or Commander in Chief for the Time being. And every such Minister is hereby required and enjoyned to appoint and constantly to keep a Clerk of such Parish Church, and to pay and satisfy such Clerk the Sum of One Thousand Pound of Tobacco Yearly and every Year, out of the said Forty per Poll.

Forty Pounds of Tobacco per Poll for Ministers Maintenance.

Out of which he to keep a Clerk.

And to prevent all Illegal and unlawful Marriages, not allowable by the Church of *England*, but forbidden by the Table of Marriage, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Minister, Priest, or Magistrate, shall presume

No Minister or others to Marry con-