

Hardships that the Candidates for Holy Orders labour under in these distant parts of his Majesty's Dominions have petitioned the Throne for an American Episcopate and requested his Grace the Arch Bishop of Canterbury to forward and second our Address. We likewise beg your Lordship to further that laudable Design which your Lordship well knows will secure the Church from any attempt of the like nature for the future, and hand down to our latest Posterity these invaluable Blessings that she enjoys at present at home under that happy Constitution. —

for the Bishop  
of London

Whereupon reading the foregoing Petition of the Clergy to his Excellency and the several Papers accompanying the same this Board after mature Consideration thereon did unanimously advise his Excellency to send the following Answer. —

Gentlemen

Annapolis 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1770.

Though your Address I think imports that it is the Act of the whole Clergy of the established Church, flowing from their general Deliberation and unanimous Opinion, yet to enable me to consider it with propriety in this Light, a clearer Satisfaction is requisite than what arises from the Delivery of a paper by nine Clergymen, or from the formal Attestation of a person in an Official Character unknown in our Constitution and assumed upon I know not what grounds. — The proper Satisfaction would have been given, by the Subscription of the Clergy individually. — That the factious Spirit of the Sectaries has appeared in their daily and openly calling in Question his Lordship's Right of Patronage in disposing of the Donations of this Province your Address gives me the first Information — Indiscretions and Irregularities of another kind have indeed occurred in some Parishes, but his Lordship's Right has been vindicated, and the Laws are a sufficient Security to his Lordship and the Persons collated by him; No degree of Support or Assistance is needed from episcopal Authority. — How far, and under what Terms the Establishment of an American Bishop may be a salutary Measure is a Consideration of the most momentous Concern deserving the most serious and mature Attention and being of so great and extensive Importance, I shall take an early Opportunity of laying the Matter before the general Assembly, together with your Address and the Papers attending it. The Motives both of Duty and Inclination will ever engage me to countenance the worthy Ministers of the Established Church, and to support the just Rights of the Clergy of Maryland, holding it at the same Time to be my indispensable Duty to protect all quiet and peaceable Subjects of every denomination in the full Enjoyment of their Rights. — Robt Eden.

To the Hon. M<sup>rs</sup>. M<sup>rs</sup>. McKel, Addison, Hamilton, Rose, Null, Keide, Allen, Hughes & Boucher.

The Members of this Board further advise his Excellency that as an Application for a Charter for providing a Support for the Widows of the Clergy has been a pretext for the frequent Meetings of the Clergy, to write to his Lordship the Lord Proprietary recommending it to him to postpone the Execution of such Charter, and that should the said Charter arrive before his Lordship can have received such Letters, they advise his Excellency to detain the same in his own hands until his Lordship's pleasure can be further known. —