

*A Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September in the Twentieth Year of His Lordships Dominion Anno Domini 1770.*

*Were Present.*

*His Excellency Robert Eden Esq.<sup>r</sup> Governor*  
*The honorable* { *Benedict Calvert Esq.<sup>r</sup>*      *John Beale Bordley Esq.<sup>r</sup>*  
*Daniel Dulany Esq.<sup>r</sup>*      *George Stuart Esq.<sup>r</sup>*  
*John Ridout Esq.<sup>r</sup>*      *William Fitzhugh Esq.<sup>r</sup>*  
*Walter Dulany Esq.<sup>r</sup>*

*His Excellency is pleased to acquaint this Board that he has received Instructions from His Lordship the Right honourable the Lord Proprietary to appoint William Hayward Esq.<sup>r</sup> a Member of His Lordships Council and the Upper House of Assembly of this Province who being present took the several Oaths to the Government required by Law as also the usual Oath of Councillor, repeated and Subscribed the Oath of Abjuration and Test and then took his Seat at the Board accordingly. —*

*The following Letters from the Clergy were laid before this Board by his Excellency and being Read were Ordered to be entered in the Council Records. —*

*Annapolis Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> 1770.*

*Sir*

*When we communicated to your Excellency the papers relative to an American episcopate, we had in view at once to inform your Excellency of the Steps we had taken, and to beg your advice and direction, an attention which your Excellency's attachment to the established Church deserves at our hands. — But they were delivered confessedly for your own perusal and not intended for the General Assembly: whether in point of punctilio you can apply to one purpose what was designed by the Writers for another, there is not a proper judge in the Province than yourself. — Had they been intended for the Inspection of the General Assembly, the Expressions might perhaps have been more guarded, and should still think it necessary to submit the Matter to their consideration we trust that we shall be able to explain ourselves as to make it manifest we meant to give as little umbrage to the general Assembly as to your Excellency. Possibly we might have taken that Step ourselves had we not apprehended it might appear presumptuous in us to apply to them, in a matter which seems to concern the prerogative alone. —*

*The Plea for establishing a Commission for ecclesiastical affairs was that the Clergy are lawless and are Subject to no restraint, they found themselves therefore under a necessity of moving for an American Episcopate, to convince the world that they were far from desiring to continue exempt from the controul of all jurisdiction, and only opposed the establishment of a Commission-Court as arbitrary and unconstitutional. —*

*As to the objection of the Signature and the Authority by which the Committee of nine Clergymen act in behalf of the whole Clergy, we beg leave to observe that in the three Meetings we have held, a majority of the whole Clergy have attended and an American Episcopate joined in their consultations to be approved and wished for. At the present Meeting nine Clergymen were left as a Committee to act for the rest; an expedient absolutely necessary from the distance of their places of Abode, and the inconvenience of attending individually: and without this expedient the Clergy would never be able to act at all in a joint manner and Business cannot well proceed without a Clerk or Secretary. —*

*That your Excellency was first apprized of any infringement of his Lordships Right.*