

Whereupon the Lord Baltimore presents  
a Paper setting forth the Present  
State of Religion in Maryland. viz.

P. R. O.  
Colonial  
Entry Book,  
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p. 31

That for the encouragement of all such persons as were desirous and willing to adventure and transport themselves & families into the Province of Maryland a law there made by the advice and consent of the Delegates of the Freemen concerning Religion, wherein a toleration is given to all persons beleeving in Jesus Christ freely to exercise their Religion & that no person of what judgement soever, beleeving as aforesaid should at any time be molested or discountenanced for or in respect of his Religion or in the free exercise thereof and that noe one should be compelled to the beliefe or exercise of any other against his consent. Upon this Act the greatest part of the people and Inhabitants now in Maryland have settled themselves & families there & for these many years this toleration & liberty has been known & continued in the Government of that Province.

That those Persons of the Church of England there who at any time have encouraged any Ministers to come over into that Province have had several sent unto them as at this time there are residing there foure that the L<sup>d</sup> Baltimore knows of who have Plantations & settled beings of their owne and those that have not any such beings are maintained by a voluntary contribution of those of their own persuasion, as others of the Presbyterians, Independents, Anabaptists, Quakers & Romish Church are.

That in every Country in the Province of Maryland there are a sufficient number of Churches and Houses called Meeting Houses for the people there and these have been built and are still kept in good repaire by a free and voluntary contribution of all such as frequent the said Churches and Meeting Houses.

That the Laws of that Province have been ever made by the advice and consent of the Freemen by their Delegates assembled as well as by the Proprietor and his Council and without the consent of all these no Law there has been made.

The greatest part of the Inhabitants of that Province (three of four at least) doe consist of Præsbyterians, Independents Anabaptists and Quakers, those of the Church of England as well as those of the Romish being the fewest, so that it will be a most difficult task to draw such persons to consent unto a Law, which shall compel them to maintain Ministers of a contrary persuasion to themselves, they having already an assurance by that Act for Religion that they have all freedom in point of Religion and Divine Worship and noe penalties or payments imposed upon them in that particular. That in