

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.
B. B. p. 14

26 March 1678

Answer of the Lord Baltimore
to the Queryes about Maryland.

Rec^d on the 1st of Ap: 1678

My Answer To the Enquiries sent unto
me by order of the Lords of the Comitte of
Trade and Plantations.

the: 1: 2: 3: I Answer that the said Provynce was originally Granted By his Late Maj^{tie} King Charles the first of Glorious Memorye unto my father in ffee who by the said Grant thereof was created Lord & Proprietor of the said Provynce To hold to him his heires and assignes forever besydes which there is a Particular clause directing the makeing of Lawes by him and his heires by and with the advise of the ffreemen or of the Deputyes and Delegates of the ffreemen of the said Provynce To be assembled when where and in what Manner the Lord and Proprietary of the said Provynce for the tyme beeing should Thinke fitt Accordinge To which Grant Power and Direction. All the Lawes which have hitherto beene made in the said Provynce have beene allwayes made And the Lord and Proprietary of the said Provynce with the ffreemen And the Deputyes and Delegates and Deputyes of the ffreemen Thus Assembled for these purposes make the Supream Court of this Provynce. Under the name and Title of the Generall Assembly of the said Provynce Besydes which There were other Courts Constituted by my said Father and still continued as Courts of Iudicature Namely A Provinciall Court beeing next to the Assembly of the Highest Court of Iudicature there and haveing cognizance of all causes as well relateing to Lawe as Equity and the Admiralty with Power to correct and amend the errors of all the Inferiour Courts alsoe a Court of Lawe in Everye County by the name of the County Court of each particular County and one Generall Court for the Probate of Wylls and Granteings of administrations.

To the: 4^o—No Answer can be given in particular here The Records beeing in the said Provynce & necessarily remayneing There nor could I in case I were there give any Answer which could be satisfactory or certayne without retorneing the cotypes of the said Records which would make up a Long and very Tedious volume For the said Generall Assemblies meete very often And the Lawes which are made are generally Temporary And to continue only for Three yeares To the end that Experience may informe us whither they will answer the ends for which they are intended And where the necessity and exigencyes of the Provynce Doe not