

Majesty's Instruction was Sent; The extravagant Bulge of the Hogshead has greatly lessen'd the Number of Hogsheads and thereby Diminished the Support of Government; And The Lower House was so Sensible of this Reduction of the number of Tobacco Hogsheads, that at a Sessions of Assembly held the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1717 It was Enacted in an Act "ascertaining the Gauge & Tare of Tobacco Hogsheads."

Section 8<sup>th</sup> viz<sup>t</sup> Fifteen pence per Hogshead instead of Twelve pence. And the Proviso for Application was Twelve pence to the Lord Proprietor for the Support of Government, & the remaining Three pence, for the purchasing Arms & Ammunition, for the better Defence of the Province &c. The Act of 1704 I have Exemplify'd to you in mine of the 5<sup>th</sup> of January last. This Act belonging to the Crown, therefore to the Proprietor; they are sensible a Tryal here to destroy it would not avail before the King. Their Doctrine mention'd in their Address to you, how feeble is the Sense of the House, viz<sup>t</sup> That the abovemention'd Act could not continue longer than during the time the Government of this Province was in the Crown. The Act was Enacted a Perpetuity To the Crown's Heirs and Successors.—Therefore To the Proprietors of Maryland, the Crown's Hereditary Governors of the Province, In Possession by the Approbation of the Crown, & to whom the Crown has Delegated all its Powers.—Therefore the Act is out of the Assembly's Reach.—But under a seeming spacious Pretence they now try to purloin Threepence out of the Twelve pence p Hogshead for Support of Government, so by Additional Reduction to the Loss from the increase of the Diameter of the Hogshead, they think Craft may prevail to really impoverish the Support of Government; for that's the Aim.—However you are too sensible & the Upper House, as not to support the Crown's & Proprietor's Dignity against Loss by Leveller's Principals.

The Lord Proprietor has Accepted your Recommendation of M<sup>r</sup> Dulany to be jointly in Commission with M<sup>r</sup> Tasker as Commissary General. You'll receive it by Instruction.

My Lord's uneasiness on Account of no Return of his Rent Rolls, obliges me to mention as I have often done, the Return of them & of which I hope it will not be long, and that you will take Care that they be truly & fairly at Large compiled in Books well Supported in Law, properly Authenticated from His Offices from the dates of Patents Register'd as to all Land-Holders, Attested by the Offices Seals, Deliver'd under Oath subscribed by the Officers in Office, & attested by good & sufficient witnesses.

M<sup>r</sup> Pelham Chancellor of the Exchequer & first Commis-