

acquainted with him and rendered himself noxious to the whole of his Parishioners on this news being confirmed in the parish, the thoughts of the hardships we had so long experienced and the prospect of continuing in the like Situation occasioned the utmost discontent both with Vestry & People from which they were restrained to the disagreeable necessity of forming some resolutions among themselves to endeavour to find out some relief, reason and humanity without the consideration of the least idea of religion declared that none should be stripped of their Substance without some consideration and that in every Secular Employment all were at liberty to share in every contract which should bind them, and the voice of reason instructed it should be more so in favour of our religious rights, we therefore concluded to take the matter under our most serious consideration as an affair of the greatest importance both to ourselves and posterity and to loose no time or pains in being fully instructed with the right of presentation Admission and Induction under the laws of this Government as also the operation and construction of his Lordships Charter relative to the right of Advowsons, and upon consideration if it was not the Peoples right to present as the patrons from the maxim of their being the only founders and maintainers of the Churches, and if so that of Course they had a right to refuse any Minister that was Inducted without such previous presentation, and not only this but where any Minister offered for admission did not answer the discretion of our own Acts of Assembly which Imposes the payment of the forty p poll, if we should not stand justified in refusing such a Man from that principle also, in consequence of this restriction, we made it not our own Study only to consider this matter, but the business of some Gentlemen who we had reason to expect might be as able to determine the consequence of such a dispute as any that we could apply to, and the result of their considerations finally determined in this point, that it was agreed that we might very safely contend the point as the Parishes in Maryland could not by any means come under the description of Royal Donatives and of course must presentative, that no Words on the construction of our own Acts can possibly take away the right of presentation from such as had the right before such Acts were made and that it is clear from time out of mind the founders only had the right of presentation and altho perhaps the People may not have claimed this right and so for a long usage hath been exercised by the Ordinary, yet a disuse or an usurpation of that right, will not take away that Original right from those that ought to have it, as also for many other reasons that might be rendered which would be trespassing to far upon your Excel-