

be granted to or held by a person not consecrated to the office of a Bishop.

By the next Clause of the Charter, free full and absolute Power is given to Lord Baltimore with the Advice Consent & Approbation of the Freemen or their Delegates to enact Laws for the good and happy Government of the Province.

“So nevertheless that the Laws aforesaid be consonant to Reason, And be not Repugnant or contrary, but (so far as Conveniently may be, agreeable to the Laws Statutes Customs & Rights of this our Kingdom of England.”

So that any Laws enacted in Maryland repugnant or contrary thereto are in their own Nature fundamentally null void and of no Effect, as contradicting the first Principles which gave them Birth.

The first Act of Assembly pass'd in Maryland, which gave the Protestant Church a temporal Establishment, was in the year 1692. It opens with this Declaration.

“That the Church of England within this Province shall have and enjoy all her Rights Liberties & Franchises wholly inviolably, as now is, or hereafter shall be establish'd by Law and also that the great Charter of England be kept inviolable.”

Three Supplementary Acts interven'd between the foregoing and an Act Pass'd in 1696, which was dissented to by King William. This begins with a Clause Enacting—

“That the Church of England within this Province shall enjoy all and Singular her Rights Privileges & Freedoms as it is now or shall be hereafter establish'd by Law in England”

This part of the Law was unexceptionable (however unnecessary for the Very Establishment of the Church according to the Ecclesiastical Laws of the Church of England implies the Government of it by them) But the Conclusion of this Clause gave the disgust which occasion'd the Dissent;

“And that his Majesty's Subjects of this Province shall enjoy all their Rights and Liberties according to the Laws and Statutes of the Kingdom of England where the Laws of this Province are Silent.”

This was consonant to the conclusive Sentence of the first Section of the Act of 1692.

“And also that the great Charter of England be kept inviolable:”

From both which Conclusions it is Observable, that the General Assembly from a Confidence of their making One Act that would appear Meritorious at the Court of England, as endowing the Protestant Church with Temporalities in this