

Province took the Opportunity of Confirming and establishing their civil Rights, and Liberties at the same Time. The King took Notice of this Finesse, and alledged this Reason for his Dissent that therein is a Clause declaring all the Laws of England in force in Maryland, which Clause is of Another Nature than that set forth in the Title of the said Law, and so it really was. The Title sets forth an Act for the Service of Almighty God and The Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province Without mentioning any thing to be provided for with Respect to their Civil Rights & Liberties, and I cannot help thinking on several Accounts that the temporal Endowment of the Church of England in this Province is in great Measure owing to the Design of the General Assembly of confirming and establishing by Act of Assembly, thro that Channel, the Great Charter of England and the Statutes and Laws of the Kingdom of England touching their Civil Rights and Liberties. But whatsoever was the Reason and admitting the Design it was a good one the Work is truly meritorious, since by the Act of 1701/2 which is now in force, a Regular Clergy are established who whilst other Colonies are distracted and rent into a thousand Sects and Clergy dependant on a precarious Contribution are by the Provision Made for them Placed all above Want & its constant Attendant Contempt, and some by their Income, as well as their Lives, are enabled to reflect a Lustre upon their Profession, who under such Circumstances may not only in the most effectual Manner Promote the Cause of Religion and Virtue, but likewise are excellent Guardians of the just Rights of Government, as well as the due Liberties of the People.

The first enacting Clause of the Act 1701/2 declares in General Terms the Church of England shall be deemed the Settled and established Church in this Province and then proceeds to Constitute and Regulate other parochial officers, and Charges Leaving the Spiritual Management, and Ecclesiastical Government thereof, to Those Laws upon which it was founded.

We must examine into the Laws and Statutes of the Kingdom of England, and Canons and Constitutions of the Church by Law established saving always his Majesty's Prerogative Royal, agreeable to which this Act of Assembly was ordered to be framed, and by which it must be construed and explained.

To Give a Minister full Possession of an Ecclesiastical Benefice the three following Particulars are Required as most considerable. Presentation, the Act of a Patron offering a Priest to a Bishop or ordinary to be admitted into a Benefice; Institution or Collation, the Act of admitting him and giving him Cure of Souls Therein; and Induction, the Act or State