

Original  
Journal.By the Burgesses of Assembly October 17<sup>th</sup> 1694.

Wee the Deputyes & Delegates of this Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly having taken into our Serious Consideracōn the Message sent by his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> the Govern<sup>r</sup> & Covnsill Relateing to the Co<sup>m</sup>missaryes office are of Opinion that a Suffragan Bishop would be most requisite & Necessary but that it will not be Convenient to Invite or give any Encouragem<sup>t</sup> to a person of that office & Degree till wee shall be in a Capacity to make suiteable provisions for his reception and Residence here, The which our many & great Vndertakeings all ready Under our Care & Charge will not admitt of what is desired at this time, Therefore referr the same to the Consideration of the next Sessions of Assembly.

Signed p Ord<sup>r</sup>

C Lomax Clk Assembly.

In Answer whereto was drawne up the following paper and accordingly sent to the house, Viz<sup>t</sup>

Upon peruseall & Mature Consideracōn of the Answer of the Burgesses Dated October 17<sup>th</sup> returned to his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> & this Hono<sup>ble</sup> Board, They are of the same Opinion & doe vnanimously concurr with them, That a Suffragan Bishop or Co<sup>m</sup>missary Deputed by & invested with such Ecclesiasticall Authority & power by the Right Reverend ffather in God The R<sup>t</sup> Hono<sup>ble</sup> the Lord Bishop of London as to his wisdom shall seem most Expedient for the Better setling & Regulat-  
 ing all matters Relateing to Churches and Churchmen which  
 are or shall be Establish<sup>t</sup> by God Almightys providence & his  
 paternall care in this province will be most convenient &  
 Necessary, But wee doe further represent into the said Bur-  
 gesses of Assembly That the Co<sup>m</sup>missarys Office in the Nature  
 of it & by the Just & Honest profits & Advantages accruing  
 unto it is a most Sutable Employment and a Valuable Encour-  
 agem<sup>t</sup> for such Suffragan Bishop or Co<sup>m</sup>missary so to be  
 Deputed by his Lsp: without any charge to be laid upon this  
 province.

ffirst because that Office being Judiciall & of great import-  
 ance & Trust in this province in quieting & secureing to the  
 Right owners all Estates of persons Dying Testate or Intes-  
 tate & for preserveing the fortunes of all the Orphans of Mary-  
 land cannot well be Executed but By a person of Integrity and  
 Capacity resideing among us. And Secondly that being a  
 Judiciall office of an Ecclesiasticall nature it ought to be per-  
 formed by a person Qualifyed by his knowledge in the Civill  
 Law and may also properly appertain to the same person if  
 he shall have taken any degrees in the Study of Divinity.