

Lib. C. B. The following Address being prepared is read & approved of

To the Right hoñble the Lord Proprietary

The humble Representation of your Lordships Governor
& Council of Maryland.

My Lord

The Unhappy Situation which the Country is in, and the manifest Danger of its being reduced to the greatest Distress, oblige Us humbly to represent to Your Lordship the present State of it.

Tobacco is the only Staple Commodity We have & our principal Support and Dependance, and would, under proper Regulations, not only supply us with all Necessaries, but also enable Us to provide handsomely for Our Families; and make this Your Province, as happy and desireable as any Part of the British Dominions on this Continent. But this Our Staple has lost its Reputation to such a Degree, that many of the Factors who were sent in and settled here to purchase it, have been ordered by their Constituents to remove to Virginia, to which Place We expect All, or most of the Tobacco Buyers, will soon resort; because that although they give a much greater Price there than they could buy here for, yet they are sure of purchasing better Tobacco there than here: Great Numbers of the Inhabitants have been used to purchase Cloathing & other Necessaries for their Tobacco, of which they will soon be destitute

p. 208 By the Advices from home, the French who usually purchased great Quantities of Our Leaf Tobacco, decline buying any of it, so long as they can be supplied with Virginia Tobacco; and when there is Scarcity of that, they will not give the same Price for Ours, as they would for Virginia Tobacco. This We find confirmed by the Accounts of Sales, of the last years Export; & We have but too much Reason to apprehend that unless Our Staple is speedily put under some effectual Regulation, the Virginians will get the whole Trade into their hands, wherein they have already made a considerable Progress

If the Difference We have mentioned arose from any difference in the soil or Climate, it would perhaps, be in vain to attempt any Regulation, or to hope that any that could be made, would prove effectual; but that is so far from being the Case, that We have really the Advantage both in Soil and Climate, and the Remedy of all the Difficulties under which We labour, is within Our Reach

Our unhappy Situation arises from this, that Our People are under no kind of Restraint, and the Generality of them are