

Lib. C. B. His Excellency is pleased to acquaint this Board that he  
 No. 20 has received Instructions from His Lordship the Right honourable the Lord Proprietary to appoint William Hayward Esq<sup>r</sup> a Member of His Lordship's Council and the Upper House of Assembly of this Province who being present took the Several Oaths to the Government required by Law as also the usual Oath of Councillor, repeated and Subscribed the Oath of Abjuration and Test and then took his Seat at the Board accordingly.

The following Letters from the Clergy were laid before this Board by his Excellency, and being Read were Ordered to be entered in the Council Records.

Annapolis Sep<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1770.

Sir

When we communicated to your Excellency the papers relative to an American episcopate, we had in view at once to inform your Excellency of the Steps we had taken, and to beg your advice and direction; an attention which your Excellency's attachment to the established Church deserves at our hands. But they were delivered confessedly for your own perusal and not intended for the General Assembly; whether in point of punctilio you can apply to one purpose what was designed by the Writers for another, there is not a properer judge in the Province than yourself. Had they been intended for the Inspection of the General Assembly, the Expressions might perhaps have been more guarded; and should you still think it necessary to submit the Matter to their consideration we trust that we shall be able so to explain ourselves as to make it manifest we meant to give as little umbrage to the General Assembly as to your Excellency. Possibly we might have taken that Step ourselves had we not apprehended it might appear presumptuous in us to apply to them, in a matter which seems to concern the prerogative alone.

The Plea for establishing a Commission for ecclesiastical affairs was that the Clergy act lawlessly and are Subject to no restraint: they found themselves therefore under a necessity of moving for an American Episcopate, to convince the world that they were far from desiring to continue exempt from the control of all jurisdiction, and only opposed the establishment of a Commission Court as arbitrary and unconstitutional.

As to the objection of the Signature and the Authority by which the Committee of nine Clergyman Act in behalf of the whole Clergy, we beg leave to observe that in the three Meetings we have held, a majority of the whole Clergy have at-