

U. H. J. has mentioned. On the other hand many of those generall Statutes, would be of great Use and Benefit to us. The
 p. 8 Question is how we shall make use of those that are proper for us, and Reject such as are Inconvenient. It may be said the Judges of the severall Courts are to Distinguish such Statutes as are proper, such as are otherwise, and judge accordingly; This indeed has been the practice since the settling of the province, and this method has been Generally Approved of; till lately it was proposed the Judges Hands should be Tyed by an Oath, to Judge according [to] the Statutes of England, without any Exception; so that if a Gentleman Practitioner of the Law finds it for the Benefit of his Clyent (to whose Interest he is sworn) to plead any Statute thō never so inconsistent with the Conveniency of the Countrey, he may Demand Judgment from the Judge according to the Oath proposed to be taken. Of what Benefit is our Charter which gives us liberty to Enact such Laws as are Convenient for the Countrey if we must be tyed down by such Statutes as are Inconvenient and were never designed for us; for it would be madness to suppose the Parliament of England has the Plantations in View when they pass an Act, without they are particularly mentioned.

Gentlemen

It is proper we should come to a Certainty in relation to such Statutes as are for our Benefit, and such as are not; and I can think of no better Expedient, than for a Committee of both Houses to make a Collection of them and to reject such as are Inconvenient for us, and Reenact such as are Suited to our Constitution in which I shall heartily Concurr.

I cannot help Recommending to your Consideracon an Affair which may be attended with ill Consequences to the Country if not timely prevented; some of our Runaway negroes are harboured among the Shuano Indians on Potomack River I did with the advice of the Councill Engage one
 p. 9 of the Magistrates of Prince Georges County to give the Chief of those Indians An Invitation to meet me at Mononkosey in order to settle a Treaty with them to prevent the loss of any more of Our Slaves, as well as to regain those Already there; Upon the Indians promise to the Gentleman that went to them, that they would meet me I went as far as the Mountains with some of the Councill, and several other Gentlemen But tho we stay'd beyond the appointed time, the Indians for what reason I cannot tell never came; we then thought it proper to send a Messenger, to know their reason for not coming, and he brought me answer from them that they would