

L. H. J. have dissented thereto. I know what I part with by that Act, as well as what I receive from it yet am Contented with it since for the Common Good I have allow'd it, and hope I shall not be drove by the mistaken Good husbandry of some to look into my own Interest as to shew them their mistake for fear of hurting Others whom they Represent, The Good people of Maryland whose Wellfare and Interest I have so much at heart

[C. B.]

And afterwards his Honour the Governour [was pleased to] Express himself in the following words Viz:

Gentlemen of both Houses of Assembly

I am heartily Sorry his L<sup>pps</sup> Speech did not come to my hands Sooner, because I am perswaded, it must have prevented all those disputes about the Statutes of England, and the Great Expence those Disputes have Cost the Country.

p. 197 It is very Certain that many of those Statutes [not] restrain'd by words of Locall Limitation, would be prejudicial were they to take place here, some of which his L<sup>pp</sup> has Mentioned; on the other hand many of those Generall Statutes would be of great use and benefit to us. The 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, and 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, till lately it was propos'd, the Judges hands should be ty'd by an oath to Judge according to the Statutes of England without any Exception, so that if any Gentleman practitioner of the Law finds it for the benefit of his Client (to whose interest he is sworn) to plead any Statute, tho' never so inconsistent with the conveniency of the Countrey, he may demand Judgm<sup>t</sup> 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 Country 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