

him when, and not before you were acquainted with the U. H. J. Address

We heartily Wish We were as good masters of Policy & prudence of Government as you think your selves to be We shou'd not then have called that part of the Oath An Innovation that was enacted in the Reign of Edward the third nor have waited long for the opinion of the best Lawyers in England concerning what was most Agreeable to the Constitution and Publick Weal of Maryland as you proposed in your former Message tho you deviate in your Present Message in this particular as well as forgetting that your Objections to the Oath was in Points more material than what you now mention and not in the Points you do now mention and since the Oath you do now Propose is exactly the same Words that M^r Attorney General proposed saving that you transpose the Word Reasonable viz. (according to the reasonable Laws Statutes and Customs of England and) instead of According to the Laws Statutes and Reasonable Customs of England &c^a which as you form it will leave room for the Judges to be Arbitrary what Statutes were reasonable the thing you at first Inveighed against and as M^r Attorney propos'd it, it evidently provides against that mischief and we hope your Honours will so far fall in with your own Measures against Arbitrary Judges as to Oblige us with placing the Word reasonable where it may be more Agreeable to the resolves of our House and our Constitution than as above Proposed.

We are sorry your Honours take that to your selves which was said of the Enemies of our Protestant Constitution but We cannot help your doing so, so we can only say we meant p. 159 you not nor will our Words bear such Construction if made by any that are not jealous of our censures

We most earnestly desire you will perfect what you profess towards the dispatch of the business now before you that we may no longer wait at so Vast an Expence for the one single Bill relating to Officers fees which must drop in December if not concurr'd with

Sign'd p Order M. Jenifer Cl. Lo. Ho.

The Message being read the following Answer ¹ was prepared Viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly November 3^d 1724.
Gentlemen.

We find by several of your Messages and especially by that of this day by Col^o Mackall and three others In Answer to

¹For the text of the message which was sent in reply to this answer, and which is lacking from this record, see Lower House Journal, p. 176, *infra*.