

U. H. J. Clergy of this province to an Abatement at the most but an equivalent to every Individual Inhabitant in this time of the Common misfortune of the Province & from which we conceive they ought not to be exempted by any Rules of Religion Justice or Law.

This proceeding will in our humble Apprehension appear the more reasonable since the Annual Allowance raised for the use of the Clergy in this Province amount to 1097320 Pounds of Tobacco A Burthen & Charge to great and insupportable for the Inhabitants to bear after the Abatem^t is made which is designed by the Tobacco Bill from the Labours of the Inhabitants unless A moderate and Reasonable Price in Common with the other Creditors of Tobacco debts should be paid for the same and after that rate the said Quantity of 1097320 pounds of Tobacco when divided amongst all the Clergy of this province will be about 30000 Pounds of Tobacco Clear of all Charges and deductions to each of them one with another and that sold at the rate proposed by the Bill will be about 150 Pounds current money of this province If their Revenue should be paid in Tobacco with the deduction of a fourth they will have the Advantage of the Market of Tobacco with the other Inhabitants

We cannot but flatter ourselves that your Excellency will Continue in this particular your Tenderness to this Country & discountenance & discourage the endeavours of any persons in any manner & in any Place to destroy what is thought to be so Absolutely necessary for the preservation and well Being of Maryland

Subscribed by all the Members of both Houses

Ordered that John Hall Philip Lee Nicholas Lowe & Charles Calvert Esq^r attended by the members appointed by the Lower House wait upon his Excellency and present the same

Read the second time the Bill for Ascertaining the form of the Oath of Judge or Justice.

On Motion made the Question being put whether the said Bill Pass as the Oath stands therein.

Resolved in the Affirmative. Whereupon it is Ordered to be thus endors'd viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly Nov^r the 2^d 1728

Read the second time & will pass.

Signed p Order Geo Plater Cl. Up. Ho.

Sent to the Lower House so Endors'd by Col^o Mathew Tilghman Ward