

L. H. J. trusted by the Charter to his Lordship: for we beg leave to Observe, that the words which we suppose gave Occasion to that Charge Viz. And not delay any Person of Common Right for the Letters of the King the Lord Proprietary or of any other whatsoever, in our humble Opinion contain no more in Substance than these words, And that they deny to no man Common Right by the Kings Letters nor
 p. 27 none other mans; which are Part of a Judges Oath prescribed by the Statute of the Eighteenth of Edward the third and have continued without Alteration three hundred and Eighty four Years, and which we Conceive would hardly have continued unaltered so long had they contained anything Prejudiciall to the Royall Prerogative.

We Cannot in Justice to the People we represent, and our selves, but observe that severall Attempts have been made by the Artifices of designing men under a Pretence of serving his Lordship (altho they were secret Enemies to his true Interest, and openly and avowedly such to the Prosperity of the Province) to violate the Rights granted to the People of Maryland, in and by the Royall Charter; which however have not so far succeeded as was intended, and we hope and Trust never will have better Success whenever they shall be Attempted for the future.

We have taken the form of the Oath mentioned in Your Honours Speech into our most Serious Consideration, and we beg leave to acquaint your Honour that we Conceive it to be so far from securing to us and our Posterity the same Measure of Law and Right which our Ancestors and our selves have ever Enjoyed, that it is Calculated (we hope contrary to his Lordships Intentions) to undermine all or the greatest Part of our most valuable Priviledges and to deprive us of the means of Securing them; which means we Conceive to be the Benefit of all the English Laws, securitative and Confirmatory of the Rights and Liberties of the subject; some of which Laws have not yet been put in Execution amongst us not because they ought not but because there has yet been no Occasion; and many of those that have actually been put in Execution especially Generall Statutes do not appear by Pleadings on Record to have been so.

And we have no Reporters of Cases determined in our Courts of Justice nor any other means that we know of to transmit to Pos-
 p. 28 ternity what Statutes or reasons the Judges grounded their Judgments upon; and yet by the Oath proposed instead of enquiring whether a Statute really affects the Case in Controversy? the Question will be whether such Statute hath been heretofore used and Practised? which Question may be made in Every case; and in Process of Time a Pretence to deprive us of the benefit of all the Laws of our Mother Country heretofore made and hereafter to be made.