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An Address of the Upper House of Assembly presented to his Honour the Governor by Colonel William Holland, one of their Members, viz.

To the Honourable Charles Calvert, Esq; Governor of the Province of Maryland, The humble Address of the Upper House of Assembly.

May it please your Honour,

p. 44 “Your Honour’s asserting his Lordship’s undoubted Right of discharging any Members of his Lordship’s Honourable Council from acting as such (of which we never in the least doubted) together with your acquainting us, that you had a particular instruction from his Lordship in Relation to Mr. Bordley, and a full Power to dismiss him, thereby to convince us of the Legality of his Discharge, induces us to apprehend, that your Honour resents our making it a Question, in our Answer to your Speech at the Opening of this Session, whether he was legally discharged or not? And therefore, in the humblest Manner, we think it our Duty to represent to your Honour, that we could not well answer the Question proposed to us, without that Reserve. For as your Honour had never been pleased to communicate to us your Reason for discharging Mr. Bordley, the Manner of doing it, or the Power his Lordship had given you for that Purpose, and for that his being a Member of the Upper House of Assembly depended upon that of his being at the same time of the Council, we could not give an Answer to the one, without making it conditional with respect to the other. So that we hope you will not interpret that Sentence as questioning his Lordship’s Power,” &c.

This Case is so fully in Point, that I shall only observe upon it, in general, that the Right of the Proprietor to discharge a Counsellor is asserted by the Governor, and explicitly acknowledged by the Council, and even by Mr. Bordley himself, the Party immediately affected, and who perhaps understood the Constitution of Maryland as well as any Man now alive. It is a vulgar Notion that the Proprietor has a Right to displace a Counsellor, but that he cannot remove him from his Seat in the Upper House, or annihilate his Legislative Capacity; but the above Case is a solemn Determination to the contrary, nor do I know it has ever been contravened by any subsequent Proceeding, so that the Precedent remains in full Force to this Day,

p. 45 Thirdly, To prove that the present Proprietor pursues the Policy of his Ancestors, in bestowing the most lucrative Offices in the Government on those Gentlemen, thereby the more effectually to secure them to his Interest, I need only mention, what I believe will hardly be contradicted, that out of the twelve Counsellors, (which is the full Compliment) ten of them enjoy, from their various Appointments, to the Amount, at a moderate Computation, of Four