

Answer. I understand the legislature of Maryland does consist of three branches, viz. the Lord-proprietor (who is hereditary governor) or his lieutenant-governor appointed by him, and approved of by the King, the Upper House of Assembly, and the Lower House elected by the people.

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Query 2d. Who compose the Upper House? do not his Lordship's Council? are they not of his appointment? does not the Proprietor claim, and has he not actually exercised, the power of displacing a counsellor at his will and pleasure? when a counsellor is displaced, is not his seat as a member of the Upper House thereby vacated? was not this done in case of a counsellor during the administration of Mr. Charles Calvert? was not this right in the Proprietor insisted on by the Governor, and expressly acknowledged by the Council themselves, and did they not moreover declare, that his character as counsellor being annihilated by the Proprietor's power, that of member of the Upper House fell with it, as dependent upon it? has this precedent been contravened by any subsequent proceedings? is it not then an established doctrine to this day, that the Proprietor can displace at his will and pleasure the members of his Council, and consequently the members of the Upper House?

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Answer. As the council or second branch of the legislature in the colonies of New Hampshire, New York, the Jerseys Virginia, the Carolinas, and other of his Majesty's American governments, consist of gentlemen nominated by the King, so in Maryland, (the jurisdiction, as well as property, being by his charter vested in the Lord-proprietor) the members of the second branch of the legislature are nominated by the Lord-proprietor; and as in the governments which are immediately in the crown, the council or members that compose the second branch in the legislature, are liable, in case of misbehaviour, to be suspended or displaced by the King, which has been often done; it is presumed, that they may in like manner be suspended or removed in Maryland by the Lord-proprietor; and by intelligence, there hath since the first settlement of the Province been but a few instances of the Proprietor's exerting such a power, as good policy must make the Proprietor very cautious in the exercise of this prerogative.

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Query 3d. Does not the Council consist of twelve members when compleat? do not nine of them enjoy offices at this day to the amount of nigh 4000l. sterling per annum? and may it not be well supposed that the expectations, not to say promises of offices in reversion, may influence the conduct of others?

Answer. The Upper House, or Council in Maryland, does consist of twelve members; nine do hold offices (it is said) but in value far short of the amount suggested by the Querist; in the colonies abovementioned, several of the council and their nearest