

passed in that Province the 3d October, 1728, whereby one fourth part granted for their support by an action in 1702, was entirely cut off, and the remaining three parts of their subsistence was rendered precarious, &c.—The Lords of the Council took the petition into consideration, together with a representation of a friend, on behalf of Lord Baltimore the Lord-Proprietor, setting forth, amongst other matters, that as the said petition greatly affected his Lordship's rights and priviledges, as Lord and Proprietor of Maryland, particularly his right of approving or repealing the laws passed in that Province, and that his Lordship was absent from the kingdom, and an entire stranger to such application, &c. he therefore prayed, that the said petition might not be taken into consideration, until his Lordship's return, who was daily expected in England: Whereupon their Lordships were pleased to put off the consideration of the said petition to this day; when the Lord Baltimore's Sollicitor attended their Lordships, and acquainted them, that he was arrived in England, and prayed, that in regard his Lordship, as Proprietor, had constantly enjoyed and exercised the power of approving and repealing laws of the Province, his Lordship might hear and determine this complaint, and which his Lordship had engaged to do with all expedition, upon the petitioner's application to him, and to grant him proper relief. The Lords of the committee, upon consideration thereof, and hearing what the petitioner had to object thereunto, were pleased for the present to suspend all further proceedings upon the said complaint.

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Thereupon, the said Jacob Henderson, clerk, in behalf of himself, and the rest of the clergy of Maryland, did present a petition to the then Lord Baltimore, Proprietor of Maryland, to this effect, viz.

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That the clergy of Maryland are exceedingly aggrieved by an act passed by the Assembly on the 3d October, 1728, entitled, An act for improving the staple of tobacco; which act (as your petitioner apprehends) is not only unreasonable in itself, but also deprives the clergy of the maintenance lawfully and solemnly provided for their support by the act of 1702, &c.

His Lordship, upon the clergy's petition being presented to him, took the same into consideration, together with another petition from the traders to Maryland, in behalf of themselves and others trading thither, praying a continuance of the act of 1728, as the said act would occasion the improvement of the staple of tobacco, and the said law limiting a certain number of plants, is of the same nature with one which has been in force many years in the Province of Virginia, &c.

Upon the petitions being read, his Lordship heard the complaint, it being fully argued on both sides, by council learned in the law; after which his Lordship dismissed the parties, and upon due consideration of the act of 1728, it appeared to him too unjust and

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