

Clark of the Counsell to youre Father and Menshon the day of the month where on hee delivered the matter is put of [off?] then the 8 of may Sighned Rich^d Lee this is a trew Coppey of ould Lee Letter the oregenall I have and shall keep and when youre Assembly meet I am Determined to atend in Annapolis.

I am y^r Humble Sert
John Doncastle

[To Upton Scott
Annapolis]

APPENDIX IX

A BILL ENTITLED AN ACT TO REDRESS THE EVILS ARISING FROM THE VARIATION OF THE COM- PASS IN SURVEYING LANDS. OCT. 31, 1770

[THIS BILL, LIKE THE ONE IN APPENDIX X, WAS
NOT ENACTED. SEE INTRODUCTION P. xxxii]

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Whereas it appears to this General Assembly, that there hath been for many Years past, a Westerly Variation of the Compass, and that it is found, by Experiments, that the said Variation hath been, for at least Forty Years past, and still is, decreasing, or that the Direction of the Needle hath inclined and approached, and still doth incline and approach towards the true North Point, at about the Rate of Three Minutes in One Year, or One Degree in Twenty Years; by Means whereof, if the Needle is alone regarded, every Survey will be continually changing its Place, and no Tract of Land heretofore surveyed within this Province, can be again surveyed or run out, agreeable to its ancient Location; from whence great Contentions must arise among the People of this Province, and Landed Property be rendered altogether precarious: For Remedy, whereof, and the better to ascertain the true Situation of any Tract of Land, according to the original running or laying out thereof;

Be it enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the Decrease of Variation or Inclination, and Approach of the Needle, from the Westward towards the true North Point, shall be estimated and taken, to have been, for at least Forty Years past, at the Rate or Quantity of Three Minutes in every One Year, or One Degree in every Twenty Years; and that, in running the Lines or Courses of all Lands in this Province, surveyed and laid out within Forty Years next before the Time of the first Experiment and Observation of the Variation, by this Act directed, so far as the Limits of such Tract, or Tracts of Land, depend on Course and Distance only, there shall be an Allowance made for Variation,