

posed in the Regulation of the fees of Officers nor had you any Reason to imagine that it would interpose in such a Manner as to justify a regular Opposition to it." From whence your Excellency's Declaration in the same Message "that it had been the Object of your anxious Attention and was your very earnest Wish to cultivate an amicable Understanding with the Representatives of the People of Maryland with the Assurance that you should on every Occasion pay a due Regard to their Rights and that you should never countenance the illegal Exactions of any Officers nor submit to any Usurpation which might essentially endanger that constitutional Balance of counteracting Powers so necessary to the Protection of the People and the Preservation of the Public Peace." The good People of this Province although they might commend the Solitude of their Delegates had great Reason to imagine their Apprehensions were ill grounded, especially when it was remembered, that your Excellency in your first Speech to the late Assembly, was pleased to express that you were sensible you should be judged of by your Actions and not by any Assurances you might then give the two Houses of your future Conduct; to which Test you most readily submitted. But after the Sense of the late House so plainly expressed and within a shorter Time after your Excellency's last Message to that House than the Resolution could well be formed, your Excellency's Proclamations were distributed and published, altogether as we apprehend unconstitutional in the Matter, and shadowed in the Manner with the assigned Reason to prevent Extortion by the Officers, in Imitation of the Practice of arbitrary Kings, who in their Proclamations, which have been declared illegal, generally covered their Designs with the specious Pretence of Public Good.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 54
Nov. 22

Your Excellency in your said Message having been pleased to tell the late Lower House "His Lordship has, I think, the clearest Right to dispose of his real Estate upon such Terms as he may think proper; to direct the formal Observance in making Titles to his Grants and to settle and regulate the Reward his Officers in this Department may demand and receive," and your Excellency having been pleased to pass a separate Instrument under the great Seal, avowedly for the Purpose of ascertaining the fees of the Land Office, and in the Proclamation respecting Officers fees in general having published that the fees of the Land Office were under a separate Regulation; a Question of momentous Concern to the People of this Province may arise, whether the Land Office is a publick or private Office? The professed Intention of the Crown, in the Grant of this Province to his Lordship's noble Ancestor was "for extending the Christian Religion and also the Territories of the English Empire" And though his Lordship might dispose of his Lands upon such reasonable Terms, as he might think proper, and direct formal Observances in making Titles to his Grants, so as to further the Increase and

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