

GENTLEMEN of the LOWER HOUSE of
ASSEMBLY.

*Notes and
Proceedings
of the Lower
House,
printed by
A. C. Green
Dec. 8*

SEVERAL Ministers of the established Church, having presented an Address to me, I take the Liberty (by Advice of the Lord Proprietary's Council) of communicating it to you, and hope you will think the Propositions this Address contains, deserve your serious Attention.

December 8, 1773.

ROBERT EDEN.

*To his EXCELLENCY ROBERT EDEN, Esquire, Governor
and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland.*

SIR,

WE the underwritten Clergymen of the established Church in this Province, beg Leave to approach your Excellency with our grateful Acknowledgments for your constant Attention to, and Concern for the Interests of our Church: An Attention and Concern which could never be more seasonable than at the present Juncture. Our unhappy Situation is not unknown to your Excellency, nor, we believe, unlamented. Most cordially do we wish it were as much in our Power, as it is in our Inclination, to restore the public Peace and Tranquility. Impressed with this Sentiment, and grieved to find our Usefulness to the Community so unhappily interrupted by the unreasonable Prejudices which have been excited against our Order and ourselves, we are not unwilling, with your Approbation, to relinquish some of our undoubted Rights. We therefore wish to submit to your Excellency's Consideration the following Propositions; the best we have been able to form; the Expediency or Inexpediency whereof we beg Leave to refer to your better Judgment.

If there be any well-founded Objection against the present Establishment, we think it is, that, in some few Instances, it gives too large Salaries. To remove this, it is proposed, that whenever the solvent taxable Persons in a Parish do, or shall exceed Twenty-two Hundred, the Excess shall be appropriated still to the Service of the Church, by being sunk into a Fund, to be lodged on stipulated Conditions with the Treasurer on each Shore, for the Purpose of further disseminating religious Instruction; that is to say, to be applied, when sufficient for the Purpose, to the Maintenance of a Reader, Lecturer, or Curate to be appointed by the Ordinary; and, in Time to the Erection of new Parishes. This, we are persuaded would be to pursue the Plan and Design of the first Framers of our Act of religious Establishment; and, we trust, remove all just Cause of Complaint. Whatever may be your Sentiments of this Proposition, we assure ourselves, you will do us the Justice to believe, that herein we have not been actuated by any merely selfish Motives, but by the more becoming one of an honest Zeal for the Interests of our holy Religion.