

the Number, Ability, Interest, or Fortune, of our Patriots bear any Proportion, to those that England has been blest with, in all Ages. Whether we are greater Lovers of Justice, and Equity, than other People, or have less Occasion for Laws, to restrain those that are unruly amongst us, and to secure and protect those that are peaceable, and innocent, than our Neighbors have. And whether Men of the greatest Authority, and Interest among us, may not have as strong Inclinations for Power, and Dominion, and of Lording it over their Inferiors, as we are told Great Men in other Parts of the World have. By a serious Consideration of these Things, we may be able, to form some Judgment, of the Condition we should be in, if we were to forfeit the Benefit of all the Laws, that have been made; I mean, the Statutes to declare the Subject's Right at the Common Law; and to establish, strengthen, and confirm, that Right. "If Men (says an ingenious Author) will be great Knaves, in spite of Opposition; how much greater would they be, if there were none.*

(*) Cato's Letters.

p.20 Some People, will object several Book Cases; wherein the Judges have resolved, that the English Laws did not extend to Ireland; 'till it was expressly enacted that they should: And that the English Acquisitions in France, were never governed but by their own Laws: From whence, the Necessity of enacting the English Statutes, in Maryland, before it's Inhabitants can have the Benefit of them, is often inferred. But this Objection, (I conceive) will be of no great Weight; when it is considered, that those Countries, were inhabited, by civilized, sociable People, conversant with Arts, Learning and Commerce; that had Laws, suited, and adapted to the Order, and Engagements of Society; by which, themselves, and others that went to live among them, might be peaceably, and happily governed: The Cause was wanting here, and so must the Effect be; for Maryland, before it was settled by the English, was, as to Law, and Government in the same Condition, with an uninhabited Wilderness: "And in Case of an uninhabited Country, newly found out, by the "English Subjects; All Laws in Force in England, are in Force there. †

The native Indians, were rude, savage, and ignorant; destitute of Letters, Arts, or Commerce; and almost, of the common Notions, of Right, and Wrong—A People, thus qualified, must make excel-

(†) P. Holt C. 1. 2 Salk 411.