

At a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis, the Seventeenth Day of July, in the first Year of the Dominion of the Right Honourable Charles Lord Baron of Baltimore, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon, &c. Anno Domini, 1716. The following Laws were Enacted.

An Act for the better Security of the Peace and Safety of his Lordship's Government, and the Protestant Interest within this Province.

Whereas it appears to have been the just sense of the Legislature of Great Britain, for some Years past, that the safety of his Majesty's Royal Person and Government, the Continuance of the Monarchy of Great Britain, the Preservation of the Protestant Religion, the Maintenance of the Church, the Security of the Ancient and Undoubted Rights and Liberties, and the future Peace and Tranquility of the Kingdom do (under God) entirely depend upon the Good and wholesome Laws heretofore made for the Limitation and Succession of the Crown, in the Protestant Line, and the Securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject. And whereas the excluding all Persons from a Share in the Judicial and Ministerial Offices in that Government, which they would not oblige themselves to defend by taking the several Oaths therein directed, has been thought an effectual Step towards the Obtaining the aforesaid happy Ends.

Britain's Security in Church and State.

(Under GOD) Depend, on the Protestant Succession.

And whereas this present General Assembly think themselves indispensibly obliged to do their Part in securing to his Lordship (the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, and the Good People of this Province) their Share in these inestimable Benefits, which are so Vastly Advantagious to Great Britain, and consequently agreeable to all the Dominions thereto belonging but especially, to us who are under the immediate Government of a Protestant Lord Proprietor. And that nothing can be more effectual to secure to his Lordship the quiet and peaceable Enjoyment of his Government, than the easing the Minds of the People, by having their Religion, Liberty and Property secured, which has of late been daringly threatened by Persons disaffected to the Protestant Succession, who have openly in Treasonable Manner taken upon them to give the pretended Prince of Wales, the Title of King of Great Britain, and drunk his Health as such. And that no better expedient can be found to obviate the Wicked Designs and Expectations of such Disaffected Persons to our present happy Establishment, than to Act (as near as may be) according to the Great Pattern which the British Legislature has set before us: In Pursuance whereof, the Legislature of this Province when under the more immediate Government of the Crown (to wit) in the Year One Thousand

The Duty of Maryland to Secure to the Proprietor and People.

These benefits of Government.

Against the threats of its Enemies.

By following the Pattern of the British Legislature.