

## Oaths and Test to be taken by all Officers.

N<sup>o</sup> 3, 4

that it be administred to them according to the Forms and Methods prescribed in the aforesaid Act of Assembly, for taking the Oaths therein required to be taken; and after the taking of such Oath, the Person so elected or chosen, shall be deemed and taken as one of the Vestry, and not before.

At an Assembly begun  
April the 26th, 1715.

N<sup>o</sup> 4.

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

Laws of Maryland, p. 171.

Britain's Security in Church and State

(under God) depend on the Protestant Succession.

The Duty of Maryland to secure to the Proprietor and People,

these Benefits of Government,

against the Threats of its Enemies;

I. **W**hereas 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. 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 advantageous 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 threatned 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,