

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 Provinces 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.*

**W**HEREAS it appears to have been the just Sence 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 antient 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, 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 Seven Hundred

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.

By following the Pattern of the British Legislature.

T t

and