

arise with the Lord Proprietary.

The Act for making the Testimony of convicted Persons legal against convicted Persons has occasioned great Doubts and Difficulties, For however salutary such a Provision may seem as adapted to the particular Genius and present circumstances of this Country, yet the Power of Legislation is limited by charter with this remarkable restriction, that the Laws be not repugnant, but as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of England - This calls for the greatest Care and attention to avoid doing any thing that may bring any Difficulties or Inconveniences upon the Lord Proprietary, by taking too great a latitude in the Construction of the Charter, and tho' He will be unwilling to signify his Dissent to any Law passed by the Legislature of Maryland where he can possibly avoid it. - yet he can never give His positive assent to this Law without the most Deliberate Consideration.

In Respect to the Act Entituled 'An Act for the more Effectual Punishment of Negroes and other Slaves and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain offenders and a Supplementary act to an Act Entituled an Act to prevent the Tumultuous meeting and other Irregularities of Negroes and other Slaves and Directing the manner of trying Slaves.'

I can entertain no Doubt from the great Prudence and long Experience in the Constitution and Genius of the Legislative Power, and in the late Lieutenant Governor, but that the Propriety of the several Regulations made by his Law, the particular Severities and Penalties it inflicts, with the method of convicting offenders and the provisions laid down for the Discipline and Regulation of Slaves, have all received the most serious consideration and are found necessary for the well being of the Publick and the Preservation of the Community and are agreeable to the Usage and Laws respecting slaves in the rest of His Majesty's American Dominions for which reasons I apprehend the general Expediency of this Law may very properly be referred to the Discretion of the Provincial Legislature.

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