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Misconduct or the want of due countenance and support from the Civil Government, from that instant will the usefulness of the Clergy proportionably fail and more especially so, and in the end totally cease, if Laws shall happen at any time to be so injudiciously framed as even to tempt the People committed to their guidance and instruction instead of encouragement to shew them every possible discouragement. On the other hand still more destructive of their usefulness will their own misconduct and a disregard of the Duties of their Functions prove. Happy is it for that People where a due regard to their own Character in the Clergy and a judicious discipline unite to render them respectable and consequently useful. Such we trust your Lordship will be led both by Education and Judgment to consider the Episcopal Jurisdiction in the Church of England to be. Without some discipline no Church ^{can} or can Subsist, and such is the Crisis at which Affairs have here arrived that according to our Judgment that venerable discipline which hath prevailed in all Christian Nations and coeval with our holy Religion or a discipline evidently formed on Puritanical Principles and which we shall hardly need to observe to your Lordship, holds such enmity with the forms of Civil Government, as here established that in the end it must of necessity prove destructive to it is not remote. Already do Evils of this Class make an alarming appearance for, owing to the irregular Circumstances of the Clergy and a total want of Discipline a motley variety of Sectaries ever watchful to Seize every prospect of Advantage to themselves are making hasty strides not only to overturn the Religious Establishment but the Civil one also. — The Instances are numerous in which they have avowedly denied your Lordship's right of Patronage and however futile and undeserving of Notice such an Opinion may be deemed when singly considered yet when viewed in conjunction with a long train of other opinions of a similar complexion all equally unwarrantable we cannot but think it not beneath your Lordship's Attention, and we trust we shall be thought by your Lordship strictly to be in our Duty and acting agreeably to your Lordship's expectations from us, while thus with all becoming deference we point out Evils that call so loudly for immediate Remedy, this Remedy we beg leave to repeat it can no where else be found but in the introduction of Bishops; an object no less interesting to your Lordship's Civil Government and the Welfare of your faithful People than it is to the preservation of our excellent Church. We do therefore with all humility most earnestly implore your Lordship to Second and Support our Application to the Throne to have a Bishop sent to America whose influence we are persuaded, will not be less favourable to the Support of Civil Administration than we assure ourselves it will be to the maintenance of true Religion and Virtue. — And we do fervently pray to the Almighty the Giver of every good and perfect Gift to crown your Endeavours with Success

We are for ourselves and Brethren, Your Lordships

faithful humble Servants

Sign'd by Orders

Robert Read Secretary

The Right honorable
Lord Baltimore

My Lord

We take the Liberty of enclosing to your Grace a petition to his Majesty requesting his Majesty to indulge us with an American Episcopate. To those Reasons which our Conscience dictates for this Application may be added some Designs