

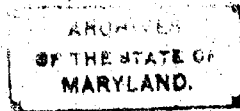
Desires of late agitated in this Province relative ecclesiastical Matters -

The established Church was endowed in Maryland by an Act of Assembly passed in the Year 1701, 2. and tho' it has all the Authority the Power of the Crown can give (and we apprehend that no less Power than that of the Crown can either totally or partially abrogate an Act passed by the Authority of the Crown) tho' it may plead Prescription from the Consent of the People for near Seventy Years and the Province derives from it the inestimable Blessing of Civil and Religious Union, yet there have not been wanting prejudiced Persons who have excited such Doubts concerning its Legality in the Minds of the People which however groundless might if not timely checked greatly endanger the Establishment of the Church itself -

Not were our Fears less excited by a Bill that lately passed both Houses of Assembly enabling the Governor to nominate Commissioners for ecclesiastical Matters which we apprehend was not only contrary to Act of Parliament but being formed on the Presbyterian Plan would had it been made a Law forever have precluded the Introduction of episcopal Government.

To remedy these growing Evils before it be too late, We humbly request your Grace to present this Petition to His Majesty in the Name of the established Clergy of Maryland, and to support it with an influence which can never want weight whilst noble Birth, sound Learning and true Piety are added to the first Dignity of the Church. -

For the Arch Bishop
of Canterbury -



To

The Kings most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty

We your Majesty's most faithful Subjects the Clergy of Maryland of the Communion of the Church of England beg leave to offer at the Foot of your Majesty's Throne those professions of Loyalty which our Duty dictates and those returns of Gratitude which your Majesty's Regard for and protection of the Church of England wherever established demands. -

The Church received its first Endowment in Maryland at a Time when the Administration of this Government rested in the Crown which at once placed the Clergy above a dependence on precarious Contributions and freed the Province from the Convulsions, which the Equality of Sectaries by their struggles for Power and Pre-eminence fill occasions in other Colonies.

To confirm and improve this Establishment, we supplicate your Majesty to extend to your Dominions here that salutary form of ecclesiastical Government by Bishops the good Effects of which are so sensibly felt at home and which when adapted to the Circumstances of the Colonies will we hope prove not less beneficial here. -

To the support of an American Episcopate already provided by pious Donations, we are ready to add such a proportion out of our Livings as may render that Station more respectable and we trust that under its Auspices we shall be able more successfully to inculcate into the Minds of your Majesty's faithful Subjects in Maryland, the Principles of that holy Religion which at once teaches to fear God and Honour the King -

My Lord

We the established Clergy of the Province of Maryland now convened finding the Constitution of the Church of England now in danger from the Growth of Sectaries and attempts made upon our legal and constitutional Rights and Immunities by the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and likewise taking into consideration the Inconveniences and

Hardship