

of Officers fees must in some sort be determined by the Inspection,  
Law - because, on that Law depends the worth & Value of Tob<sup>o</sup> in,  
which Fees have been always payable. I before consulted the Lawyers  
here & asked their Opinion whether & how far the Law was repugnant  
to the Statute of Queen Ann, their Sentiments & my own, at that time, I  
have already taken the Liberty to communicate, & for their parts  
they will not yet be persuaded to entertain a contrary Opinion. - As  
I did some time since write, how, wherefore, & how much, the Law has  
affected the Paper Currency I would not presume to reply after this  
Ldps has considered, & taken Advice on the Affair, but I hope you  
will pardon me for taking some Notice of that part of your Letter  
which expresses your Apprehensions that the Neighbouring Provinces  
should advantage themselves of such a Regulation, or Issuance of Coin  
among us. Were we indeed to borrow of those Provinces your fears  
would not be without foundation, but I will assure you I am confident  
that is by no means the Case with Maryland at present; did our  
Circumstances incline us or oblige us to become Borrowers, Virginia  
has not Money to lend, that Colony on the contrary is in extreme  
want of Cash, & I am credibly informed that scarce a Month passes  
but Virginians come to Maryland for Gold & Silver & leave their Bonds  
& Land Deeds in the Custody of this Ldps Tenants. In Pennsylvania  
Gold & Silver passes as it is valued in our Law, the Trade of that  
Province being very considerable, requires a good deal of circulating  
Cash, & indeed the want they feel of more Money among them is  
the Reason they are so importunate for leave to strike more Paper.  
it seems to be universally agreed here that the Regulation of the Tob<sup>o</sup>  
Law gives us an Advantage, with respect to that Province & tho'  
some of our Bills of Exchange are carried thither for Gold & Silver  
I am convinced we must be the only Gainers by such an Intercourse  
& Communication - His Ldps Instructions concerning any future Act  
to regulate Ordinaries shall be most punctually obeyed as shall His  
Ldps pleasure signified with respect to the Taxes on Pantboke as  
soon as I can see Col<sup>o</sup> Lloyd whom I expect in Town within a  
few Days.