

I could have time to write to His L^{dy} & to receive his Instructions ^{thereupon} which Intimation I apprehended would have inclined them to now coming to any Resolution upon the Bill at that time but to have postponed the Consideration of it to the next Session & to a fuller House, the two Mr. Tashers (Col^l: Hammond & Covert & Mr. Dulany being all that were then present: This Method however (tho' unusual one) was not it seems agreeable to some of those Gent^l: they were pleased to put the Vote & thereby gave Mr. Dulany an opportunity of entering his Protest which I have reason to think Mr. Tasher & also the Colonel (who had importuned me much to pass the Bill) had before seen. After the Assembly broke up I got Copies of the Aliens Laws that were sometime ago made in Virg^a: & York & which are alluded to in the Protest & laid them together with the Bill which our Lower House had framed before his L^{dy}'s Attorney Gen^l: desiring him at the same time to consider them well & then to draw up such a Bill as he should think His L^{dy} might properly & securely assent to & as might make the passing any other Aliens Law hereafter unnecessary which You'll perceive was not done by the Bill which the Upper House refused to pass. The Truth is that the Germans in general have always appeared averse to taking the Oaths to the Govern^t: which I think in the present Situation of Affairs it is highly proper they should take & if an Act was to pass for Naturalizing all of them that have died in this Province as the Bill in Question proposed to do) without requiring or directing those of them that are now living among us to qualify themselves for holding Lands by taking the Oaths scarcely one of them would be prevailed on to do so; but they would rely that if ever Disputes should arise hereafter about their Titles another Aliens Bill would be immediately passed which perhaps might be then productive of some Confusion especially if it should happen that the Judges of His L^{dy}'s Land Office should have granted Escheat Warrants for any Tracts which such Aliens might have died possessors of. This future Evil You will perceive is provided against by Mr. Boddie's Draft a Copy of which (marked B) I shall transmit together with Copies of the Virg^a & York Laws (marked C & D) that You may submit it to His L^{dy} obtain his Commands for me thereupon which I shall hope to receive before the Assembly meets again as I don't doubt but the Lower House will at the next Session send up