

To his Excellency the Governor, the Honble his Majesty's Council, and the Honble House of Delegates.

We the Doctor Governors and Visitors of Free Schools met together to consult the Ends for which we are incorporated and taking into Consideration the great Disadvantage the want of Learning and Education is to the Youth of this Province and that the same may be remedied by setting Free Schools in every County thereof. We are heartily concerned that we are obliged to represent unto this Honble Assembly that our Funds will only enable us to maintain one School in this Town and that they are very insufficient to answer the pious Design that we are engaged in and therefore we make humble Application that this laudable work may be taken into Consideration and such Means used as the Honble Assembly shall think proper to enlarge the Funds for the Promotion of Education and Learning — And whereas we meet with great Difficulty from the great Distance that the several Members of our Corporation have from one another and that it is almost impracticable for us to meet and consult so oft as the Nature of our Affairs would require we humbly submit to the Honble Assembly whether it may not be necessary by a new Law to enable any five or more of us to transact our Affairs without laying under a Necessity of having a Majority of the Members present. Further we represent to the Honble Assembly that we find in one of the Journals of the House of Delegates 6th July 1696 recited that Mr. Anthony Workman came before the House and gave a hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling to the building of a House upon a Lot which his Excellency had already given together with ten Pounds Sterling towards building the said House which is to be enjoyed by the said Anthony Workman during his natural Life and remain over to the Use of Free Schools. Also the said Mr. Workman promised to have all the Improvements upon the said Lot in good and sufficient Repair. And in the Journal of the House of Delegates hold in May 1696 folio 38 & 39 the said Workman offers this House and says there is fifty Pounds in his Hands for finishing the House and prays he may have Ordinary therein Licenses fees which was granted Likewise in an Act of Assembly for keeping good Rules and Orders in the Port of Annapolis made in July 1696 it is thus contained. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that all those Deeds Obligations Writings