

Pains to prove it, any more than I can see a Foundation for your Resolutions concerning His Majesty's Title to this Province; under whom, by Virtue of my Charter, I hold within the Bounds whereof I shall always rule.

No doubt, Gentlemen, as you observe, We of *Maryland*, are in the Circumstances of Conquerors rather than the Conquered; which has put in our Power to treat the Native *Indians* with that Tenderness and Humanity they have so often met with. Actions worthy *English* Men, and real Conquerors.

Many Debates, if I am rightly informed, have been in former Assemblies, whether the Statutes of *England* did extend to you or no, without either House coming to Resolutions thereon: And the most common-receiv'd Opinions, of the best Lawyers of *England*, have been against it; and several adjudged Cases support those Opinions. As in particular, the *Habeas Corpus* Act has been often adjudged by all the Judges not to extend either to *Ireland*, or the Plantations; which is as strong a Case as can be mention'd, as it is in Favour of Liberty, and the Terms of the Act as general as can be. If the Statute of the 5th of *Elizabeth*, about Servants, were to extend to the Plantations, it would be destructive to the very Being and Constitution of them. The same may be observed of the Statutes of Usury, and that to prevent Frauds and Perjuries, and many others which have been expressly and often held not to extend to the Plantations, when doubted, either in the Courts of Law, or before the King and Council; and yet these are General Laws of equal Obligation with any other Law or Statute whatever.

I think it needless to mention any other Cases, unless it be that of *Blankard* and *Galdy*, and little thought to find a Position introduced with that Solemnity, to be only the Saying of a single Counsel, on One Side the Question, in Opposition to the Averment of the Counsel on the other Side, and contrary to the Resolution of the Judges in that very Case, viz. *That Jamaica was not Bound by our Laws, unless particularly mentioned therein, but by their own particular Laws and Customs.* The full Power I have, with the Advice, Assent and Approbation of the Free-Men of the Province, or their Delegates, to enact any Laws whatever, appertaining either to the publick State of the Province, or the private Utility of particular Persons, so they be Agreeable to Reason, and not Refugnant or Contrary, but as near as Conveniently may be, agreeable to the Laws, Statutes, Customs and Rights of *England*, as is most fully set forth in my Charter, has put in our Hands such ample Power of making Laws proper for our Infant Condition, and different Tenures of *Maryland*, that you will find it, I believe, your Happiness, if the Statutes of *England*, not expressly located thither, are not, in the Gross, in Force among you; and that your Resolutions have not Force till enacted into Laws of your own making, with My Assent. However precarious, you Gentlemen who are fond of the Expression, may esteem your Condition, 'tis the Condition; (I think I may use the Expression) 'tis the *Happy Condition* the Crown by my Charter hath thought fit to place you under, and you by your Residence in *Maryland* ought quietly to submit to: Your Predecessors have been thus fortunately govern'd; and flourish'd; and, I trust, your Successors will have no Cause to complain.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses,

I cannot but observe to you, at this Time, what his most gracious Majesty has been pleas'd to do, in relation to the *English* Statutes taking Place in the Plantations,