

since the Act of Assembly, by which the Twelve Pence *per* Hoghead was raised towards the maintaining the Dignity and Station of my Lieutenant-Governour, and for such other Uses as to me shou'd seem meet: At the making of which Act, it was not so much as surmised that their Support should come from me, and had it been exprest, I would have dissented thereto. I know what I part with by that Act, as well as what I receive from it; yet am contented with it, since for the Common Good I have allowed it; And hope, I shall not be drove by the mistaken good Husbandry of some, to look so far into my own Interest, as to shew them their Mistake; for fear of hurting others whom they represent, *The good People of MARYLAND*, whose Welfare and Interest I have so much at Heart.

C. B.

His Honour the Governour, was pleas'd to exprest himself in the following Words, *viz.*

*Gentlemen of both Houses of Assembly,*

I Am sorry his Lordship's Speech did not come to my Hands sooner, because I am perswaded it must have prevented all those Disputes about the Statutes of *England*, and the great Expence those Disputes have cost the Country. It is very certain that many of those Statutes, not restrained by Words of local Limitation would be prejudicial to us, were they to take Place here; some of which His Lordship has mentioned: On the other Hand many of those general Statutes would be of great Use and Benefit to us. The Question is, How we shall make Use of those that are proper for us, and reject such as are inconvenient? It may be said the Judges of the several Courts are to distinguish such Statutes as are proper, and such as are otherwise, and judge accordingly. This indeed has been the Practice since the settling the Province, and this Method has been generally approved of, till it was lately proposed the Judges Hands should be tyed by an Oath to judge according to the Statutes of *England*, without any Exception: So that if any Gentleman-Practitioner of the Law, finds it for the Benefit of his Client (to whose Interest he is sworn) to plead any Statute, tho' never so inconsistent with the Conveniency of the Country, he may demand Judgment from the Judge, according to the Oath propos'd to be taken. Of what Benefit is our Charter, which gives us Liberty to enact such Laws as are convenient for the Country, if we must be tyed down by such Statutes as are inconvenient, and were never designed for us; for it would be Madness to suppose the Parliament of *England* has the Plantations in View, when they pass an Act, without they are particularly mentioned.

*Gentlemen,*

It is proper we should come to a Certainty in Relation to such Statutes as are for our Benefit, and such as are not; and I can think of no better Expedient, than for a Committee of both Houses to make a Collection of them, and to reject such as are not convenient for us, and Re-enact such as are suited to our Constitution: In which I shall heartily concur.

I cannot help recommending to your Consideration, an Affair which may be attended with ill Consequences to the Country, if not timely prevented. Some of our Runaway Negroes are harboured among the *Shawan* Indians,

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