

the Staple of Tobacco; and therein, and in every Matter or Thing (else) which shall come under our Consideration, endeavour to act in such Manner, as may be most conducive to the Preservation of His Lordship's Interest and Prerogative, the Constitution, Laws and Customs of this Province, and the Common Good and Welfare of the Inhabitants thereof.

I T is with great Concern we observe, what Your Excellency has been pleased to say, relating to your own Person: But hope nothing of that Distrust of your professed Sincerity, which you are pleased to mention, can be imputed to our House, or any one Member thereof: On the contrary, we unanimously take Leave to assure Your Excellency, that it is with Pleasure we constantly observe You acting with great Concern for the Common Good. And we do sincerely believe, that You really intend the Publick Welfare, with as great Affection as any of Your Noble Ancestors.

W E will, at all Times, carefully avoid offering any Thing to Your Excellency, which we have Reason to believe may justly merit a Denial. But, if at any Time, a Difference of Opinion happens, between Your Excellency and our House, or any of the Members of it, about controverted Points; we intreat, that You will not impute it to sinister Designs, or any Diffidence, in us, of Your Sincerity for the Publick Good; but rather to the fallible Nature of Mankind, which is not always capable of infallibly discerning Truth; from whence often arises Contentions, and a Pursuit of the same good End, by different Methods.

W E are very sorry for Your Excellency's Indisposition, but hope it will not long continue; and that You may enjoy such a State of Health, as will induce You long to remain amongst us; and, by a continued impartial Administration of Government, convince distrustful Minds (if any such there be) of Your sincere Intentions to promote the Common Good; for which may You receive a general Applause, and the grateful Acknowledgments of all the good People of this Province of *Maryland*.



To which His Excellency was pleas'd to make the following A N S W E R.

Gentlemen,

*M*Y sincerest Thanks attend your very affectionate Address: Your Resolution; to Support the mutual Rights of Government and People, by the secure Rule of the Royal Charter, as it is most just, I think cannot fail giving universal Satisfaction: His Lordship's cautious Mislike of the Words in the late Oath, arose, not from any supposed evil Intention in the Persons Enacting, but from a Concern, lest any one hereafter might put a Construction on them, injurious either to the Proprietary or People, which he was afraid the unguarded Generality of them might possibly admit: The Oath, proposed by his Lordship, seems to provide an universal Security against all Innovations, and most likely to attain the good End we all contend for, The Peace and Prosperity of the Province of *Maryland*.

Benedict Leonard Calvert.

