

To the Honourable B E N E D I C T L E O N A R D C A L V E R T, Esq; Governor
of M A R Y A N D.

The Humble ADDRESS of the House of D E L E G A T E S.

May it please Your Honour,

WE His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Representatives of the Free-Men of *Maryland*, return your Honour our humble and hearty Thanks, for the Great Regard you are pleased to express for the Prosperity and Welfare of the Province; and we do, with the greatest Sincerity, assure your Honour, That we are firmly resolved, faithfully to discharge, to the utmost of our Power, our Duty to our most Gracious Sovereign, to his Lordship the Lord Proprietary, and the People we represent.

Altho' we are really concerned, that there should be any Difference between his Lordship and his Tenants, yet it is the greatest Consolation imaginable to us, to know that they have given no Occasion for a Difference; unless a firm Attachment to the Interest and Welfare of their Country, and a fixed Resolution to hand the same Rights and Liberties which they derive from their Ancestors, and the Laws of their Mother Country and this Province, pure and undefiled, to their Posterity, be such. If these be Causes of Differences, we hope they will never cease. What the Votes were, that alarm'd his Lordship, we cannot guess, unless they were the Resolves of the Lower House of Assembly, wherein the Upper House concurr'd, relating to the Constitution of the Province; Which Resolves, we do assure your Honour, we still firmly adhere to. The Sovereign Right of the Crown of *Great-Britain*; in and to this Province, as it is, under God, our greatest Security, so we account it our chiefest Happiness; and we do affirm, that the People we Represent, and our selves, are so far from a Thought injurious to that Right, that they and we would spend the last Drop of their and our Blood, in the Defence of it.

We are at a Loss to conceive, how the laying the Judges under the Obligation of an Oath, to administer Justice according to the Laws, that ought ~~to be administered according to the Laws, and not according to the~~ could give his Lordship any Apprehension, that has no other Tendency, but to oblige the Magistrates to do their Duty, according to its Sense, and the Intention of the Makers of it, contained in clear and explicit Terms, be otherwise construed, but to oblige the Magistrates to do their Duty. Nor can the Words of that Oath, by any means, in our humble Opinion, deserve so heavy a Charge, as an Intent to affect his Majesty's Royal Prerogative, in any, much less in several, of its Branches, either in those reserved peculiarly to his Sovereign Person, or in those delegated to, or deposited and trusted by, the Charter to his Lordship: For, we beg leave to observe, that the Words which we suppose gave Occasion to that Charge, *viz. and not delay any Person of Common Right, for the Letters of the King, the Lord Proprietary, or of any other whatsoever*, in our humble Opinion, contain no more in Substance than these Words, *and that ye deny to no Man Common Right, by the Kings Letters, nor none other Man's*; which are Part of a Judge's Oath prescribed by the Statute of the Eighteenth of *Edward the Third*, and has continued without Alteration Three Hundred and Eighty Four Years, and which we conceive would hardly have continued unaltered so long, had they contained any thing Prejudicial to the Royal Prerogative.

We cannot, in Justice to the People we represent, and our selves, but observe, that several Attempts have been made by the Artifices of designing Men, under a Pretence of serving his Lordship, (altho' they were secret Enemies