

Assembly on Notice of the Decease of the Right Honourable *Charles* Lord *Baltimore*, then late Proprietary of this Province, had made their humble Application to the Right Honourable *Benedict Leonard* Lord *Baltimore*, then Lord Proprietary thereof, that he would be favourably pleased to accept of his Rents and Fines for Alienations in Tobacco at *Two Pence* Sterling per Pound, in such manner and on such condition and terms as his Noble Ancestors had theretofore done, for the greater Ease to their Tenants in the Payment of their Rents, and the better to encourage the Cultivation and Settlement of the remoter Parts of this their Proprietorship, and that forasmuch as the Gratuity formerly settled on his said Lordship's Ancestors for such their Favours, was raised by Impost of *Twelve Pence* on the Exportation of every Hoghead or Four Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, which Impost was determined by the Death of the said then late Lord Proprietary, so that at the Time of making this Act his Lordship's Rents were payable in Money; but that forasmuch as to continue the Payment thereof in Money would be wholly Impracticable from the great Scarcity of it, and that it would not only tend much to the Disappointment of his Lordship in the Receipt of his Rents, but also to the Oppression of such Tenants as should hold their Lands under Conditions of such punctual Payment as the tenour of their Grants requires, and to the Disinheriting many who would be obliged to surrender their Estates for want of Ability to comply therewith, which in all probability would put a great Check to the future Cultivating the remote and forest Lands of this Province, and be a Cause to several of those remoter Inhabitants to desert, their (yet but poor) Improvements, to the lessening the Revenue of the Crown and discouraging the Enlargement of his Majesty's Dominion in these Parts; all which Inconveniencies the then present General Assembly most earnestly desired might be provided against; and reciting also, that the quantity of Tobacco then usually Exported, or which might be Exported in a Hoghead of the Gauge by this Act settled, exceeded the quantity which was commonly reputed to be the Contents of an Hoghead at the Time when the aforesaid *Twelve Pence* per Hoghead was settled on his Lordship's Ancestors, for the making Easy the Payment of his Rents and Fines for Alienations aforesaid, and also, for that altho' the Number of Hogheads annually Exported were increased since that Time, yet for that the value of his Lordship's Rents were much more encreased; It is by the said Act Enacted, that from and after the 29th day of *September* then next, there should be raised, levied and collected for every Hoghead of Tobacco, which should be shipped in any Ship or Vessel to be Exported out of this Province, or any the Territories, Islands, Ports, Rivers, Creeks