

The Petition of the present Commissioners of *Charles-Town*, was read and granted.

*The House adjourns until Tomorrow Morning, 9 of the Clock.*

Tuesday Morning, *May 24, 1748.*

THE House met according to Adjournment.

Messieurs *John* and *Richard Gresham*, and Capt. *Tilghman*, appeared.

Ordered, That the Petition of the sundry Inhabitants of *St. Mary Anne* Parish, and others, in *Cecil* County, be heard at the Bar of this House by Council on Thursday next.

The Bill entituled, *An Act empowering the Justices of Kent County, &c.* was read the second Time, and will pass, and was sent to the Upper House by Mr. *Harris* and Mr. *Mills*.

Mr *Hammond*, from the Committee of Laws, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report, *viz.*

*By the Committee of Laws, May 24, 1748.*

I N Pursuance of an Order of your Honourable House, dated *May 12, 1748*, appointing this a Committee of Ways and Means, in Relation to obtaining Liberty for Importation of Salt into this Province, from any Parts of *Europe* in Amity with his Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors; your Committee humbly represent, That in the Charter from King *Charles* the First to *Cæcilius Calvert*, Baron of *Baltimore*, in 1634, there is a saving Clause in the following Words: " Saving always unto us, our Heirs and Successors, and to all the Subjects (of our Kingdom of *England* and *Ireland*) of us, our Heirs and Successors, free Liberty of Fishing for Sea-Fish, as well in the Sea, Bays, Inlets, and navigable Rivers, as in the Harbours, Bays and Creeks of the Province aforesaid, and the Privileges of Salting and Drying their Fish on the Shore of the said Province, and for the same Cause, to cut and take Underwood or Twigs there growing, and to build Cottages and Sheads necessary, in this Behalf, as they heretofore have, or might reasonably have used: Which Liberties and Privileges nevertheless the Subjects aforesaid of us, our Heirs and Successors, shall enjoy, without any notable Damage or Injury to be done to the said now Lord *Baltimore* his Heirs or Assigns, or to the Dwellers and Inhabitants of the said Province, in the Ports, Creeks, and Shores aforesaid; and especially in the Woods and Copses growing within the said Province. And if any shall do any such Damage or Injury, he shall incur the heavy Displeasure of us, our Heirs and Successors, the Punishment of the Laws; and shall moreover make Satisfaction."

Your Committee humbly observe, That by the foregoing Proviso in the Royal Charter, the Situation of this Province on the Western Ocean, and which, with the Bays, Inlets, and Arms of the Sea, afford Cod, Ling, Shad, Herring, and great Variety of other suitable Fish, fit for salting and curing for Merchandize and Exportation, renders it properly a fishing Colony; which great Advantage is lost to his Majesty's liege Subjects, for want of Salt in greater Plenty, and cheaper, to encourage that Branch of Trade, exclusive of the great Need which the People have for that Commodity, not only for their own common Use, but also that those who live remote from the navigable or sale Water, are indispensibly obliged to give their Cattle Salt, which consumes Great Quantities thereof.

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