

To the honourable the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the state of Maryland.

Gentlemen,

THE humble petition of us the subscribers, inhabitants of Kent county, humbly sheweth, That your petitioners, being but little versed in the secrets of government, and unwilling to involve ourselves in matters we did not fairly understand, by taking an oath which from common report was out of our power to comply with, and it was likewise reported at the same time, that the British army would take possession of this peninsula between the two bays, and oblige us all to take the oath of allegiance to the king of Great-Britain. This and many such reports, industriously spread by designing men, confused our weak judgments in such a manner, that we were deterred from taking the oath of fidelity to this state in due time, which has brought on us the odious character of being foes to our country and the glorious cause in which we are embarked, and likewise laid us under a heavy tax, the payment of which must distress if not ruin us and our families. We humbly confess, gentlemen, that we were wrong in not taking the oath in due time; but in order to shew to your honours and all the world that we are friends to our country and willing to support it, we have voluntarily taken the said oath, and pray your honours will take our distressed case into your serious consideration, and grant us such relief either in whole or in part as you in your wisdom shall see cause. And we your humble petitioners, as in duty bound, will for your welfare ever pray, &c. &c. The 6th of November, 1778.

John Cloton, William Cloton, William Semans, Thomas Boyd, son of Nathaniel, Francis Standly, William Pell, Samuel Dickinson, Lambert Leamans, George Vanfant, son of George.

May it please your honours, the within petitioners came voluntarily before me the subscriber, and took the oath of fidelity to this state. Given under my hand this eighth day of November, 1778. ROBERT MAXWELL.

Be granted? Carried in the negative.

N E G A T I V E.						
Messieurs	Worthington,	Jackson,	Veazey,	Gibson,	Mason,	Cramphin,
	Dent,	Strawbridge,	Gantt,	Brown,	Potter,	Crabb,
	Digges,	Smoot,	Magrader,	Carmichael,	Sprigg,	Burgess.
	Maddox,	Eccleston,	H Goldsborough,	Bordley,	Bayly,	
A F F I R M A T I V E.						
Messieurs	Sewell,	Hall,	Deye,	Ward,	Brice,	Norris,
	Mackall,	H. Ridgely,	Stevenson,	Job,	Fischer,	M'Comas,
	Lloyd,	Chew,	Hammond,	Evans,	Bond,	Keene.
	Wilmer,	Harrison,				

On motion, the question was put, That the petition of John Ward Pennington, which follows in these words:

To the honourable the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the state of Maryland,

The petition of John Ward Pennington, of Kent county in the said state, humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioner hath on all occasions, since the opposition to the British arms, conformed himself to the laws and regulations of the different conventions and assemblies, by enrolling, mustering, and bearing arms, when called on by his officers, both against the British army and Tories. That during the time of administering the oath of fidelity and support to this state last March, your petitioner, from his remote place of abode adjoining the line of the Delaware state, was never rightly informed of the length of time allowed by the test act for the inhabitants to come in and take the same, but upon his strict examination with regard to the time limited, was informed that it was past with respect to his taking it before a single magistrate, but that a further time was allowed to take it before the court, on giving sufficient reasons, which he then determined to do; but being engaged as a bondsman for his sister-in-law, for her due administration of her husband's estate, and the law having set apart Tuesdays and Saturdays for that business, she from her state of health and badness of roads not being able to attend on the Tuesday, your petitioner was constrained to put it off until Saturday, when attending early in the day, he was informed to his great grief that the court was adjourned, by which means he was deprived of the opportunity of taking the said oath at that time. Your petitioner having the greatest confidence in your honours good disposition toward the friends of America, therefore humbly prays that your honours will be pleased to take the above recited facts into consideration, and pass an act allowing your petitioner a further day to take the said oath, and discharge him of the treble tax already and hereafter to be collected, and other the disabilities imposed by the act, entitled, An act for the better security of the government. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

JOHN WARD PENNINGTON.

We the underwritten subscribers, being well acquainted with the within named petitioner, Ward Pennington, do hereby certify, that he has ever demeaned himself as a good citizen, and at