

building and clearing : Now the Lord *Baltimore* imposeth an Oath upon us, by Proclamation, which he requireth his Lievtenant forthwith to publish ; which if we do not take within three months after publication, all our Lands are to be seized for his Lordships use. This Oath we conceive not agreeable to the terms on which we came hither, nor to the liberty of our Consciences as Christians and free Subjects of the Common-wealth of *England* : Neither can we be perswaded in our Consciences by any light of God, or engagement upon us, to take such an Oath ; but rather humbly conceive it to be a very real grievance, and such an oppression as we are not able to bear ; neither do we see by what lawful power such an Oath, with such extream penalties, can by his Lordship be exacted of us who are free Subjects of the Common-wealth of *England*, and have taken the Engagement to them. We have Complained of this grievance to the late honorable Council of State in a Petition subscribed by us, which never received any answer, such as might clear the lawfulness of such his proceedings with us : but an aspersion cast upon us of being *Factionous* fellows ; neither have we received any Conviction of our error in not taking the said Oath, nor Order by that power, before whom our Petition is still depending, to take it hereafter ; neither can we believe that the Commonwealth of *England* will ever expose us to such a manifest, and real bondage ( who assert themselves, The maintainers of the lawful Liberties of the Subject ) as to make us Swear absolute subjection to a Government, where the Ministers of State are bound by Oath to countenance and defend the Roman Popish Religion, which we apprehend to be contrary to the Fundamental Laws of *England*, the Covenant taken in the three Kingdoms, and the Consciences of true English Subjects : and doth carry on an arbitrary power, so as whatever is done by the people at great costs in Assemblies, for the good of the people, is liable to be made Null by the negative Voice of his Lordship ; But affirmative Propositions and Commands are incessantly urged, and prest, and must not be denied.

In Consideration whereof, we humbly tender our Condition and Distraction, upon this occasion falling upon the hearts of all  
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