

they may domincere and doe what they please.

As to the pretended Commission mentioned by Mr. Strong from the supream Authority of England in 1652. for reducing of *Maryland*, there was no such thing; but the ground of that pretence was this. In September 1651. when the Councell of State sent Commissioners from hence, that is to say Capt. *Dennis*, Capt. *Steg*, and Capt. *Curtes*, to reduce *Virginia* to the obedience of the Parliament, the said Councell appointed a Committee of themselves for the carrying on of the affaires of the Admiralty, to give instructions to the said Commissioners for that business, and Colonell *George Thomson* being then in the Chaire of that Committee, *Maryland* was at first inserted in their instructions to bee reduced as well as *Virginia*, but the Committee being afterwards satisfied by all the Merchants that traded thither (who were engaged to assist with their ships in the reducement of *Virginia*) that *Maryland* was not in opposition to the Parliament; that Captaine *Stone* the Lord *Baltemores* Leivtenant there, was generally knowne to have beene alwayes zealously affected to the Parliament, and that divers of the Parliaments friends were by the Lord *Baltemores* especiall directions received into *Maryland*, and well treated there, when they were faine to leave *Virginia* for their good affections to the Parliament; then the said Committee thought it not fit at all to disturbe that Plantation, and therefore in the presence of many of the said Merchants, caused *Maryland* to bee struck out of the said instructions, and the Councell of State did thereupon give Licence to many Ships to trade at that time to *Maryland*, but would not permit any to goe to *Virginia*, till that Colony were reduced to obedience; all which will bee

testified