

Masters of every such Ship or Vessel coming into this Province shall at their first Arrival here before their Loading on board any Goods or Commodities of the Growth Production or Manufacture of this Province give good & sufficient Security to His Excellency the Governor or the Officer thereunto especially appointed for the payment of the said Duty or Imposition accordingly. And whereas the General Assembly of this Province on the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of April 1715 made their humble Application to the late R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Benedict Leonard Lord Baron of Baltimore that he would be favourably pleased to accept of his Rents & Fines for Alienations in Tob<sup>o</sup> at 2<sup>s</sup> St<sup>s</sup> p lb in such manner & on such Conditions & terms as his Noble Ancestors have heretofore done for the greater Ease to their Tenants in the Payment of their Rents & the better to encourage the Cultivation & Settlement of the remoter Parts of this their proprietorship And forasmuch as the Gratuity formerly settled on His said L<sup>dps</sup> Ancestors before the Decease of the late R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Charles Lord Baron of Baltimore was raised by an Impost of twelve pence on the Exportation of every Hhd of 400 lbs of Tob<sup>o</sup> which Impost determined by the Death of the said R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Charles L<sup>d</sup> Baron of Baltimore so that thereby His L<sup>dps</sup> Rent became payable in Money, but forasmuch as to have continued the payment thereof in Money would have been wholly impracticable from the great Scarcety of it amongst Us & that it would not only have tended much to the Disappointment of His L<sup>dp</sup> in Receipt of his Rents but also to the Oppression of such Tenants as held Lands under Conditions of such punctual Payment as the Tenor of their Grants requires & to the Disinheriting many who would have been obliged to surrender their Estates for want of Ability to comply therewith which in all probability would have proved a Check to the future Cultivation of the remote & forest Lands of this Province being part of His Majesty's Dominions, all which Inconveniencies that General Assembly most earnestly desired might be provided ag<sup>st</sup> And forasmuch as the Quantity of Tob<sup>o</sup> then usually exported or which might be exported in a Hh<sup>d</sup> of the Gage by this Act settled exceeded the Quantity which was commonly reputed to be the Contents of a Hh<sup>d</sup> at the time when the afores<sup>d</sup> 12<sup>s</sup> p Hh<sup>d</sup> was settled on His L<sup>dps</sup> Ancestors for the making easy the payment of his Rents & Fines for Alienations afores<sup>d</sup> & also for that altho the Number of Hhds annually exported hath much increased since that time yet for that the Value of His said L<sup>dps</sup> Rents hath much more increased, a Law was then passed for the raising an Impost of 18<sup>s</sup> S<sup>ts</sup> p Hh<sup>d</sup> & 3<sup>s</sup> Stg. p 100 on Tob<sup>o</sup> exported

M. H. S.  
Collection.