

Lib. C. B. of which are so sensibly felt at home and which when adapted  
 No. 20 to the Circumstances of the Colonies will we hope prove not  
 less beneficial here.

To the Support of an American Episcopate already provided by pious Donations, we are ready to add such a proportion out of our Livings as may render that Station more respectable and we trust that under its Auspices we shall be able more successfully to inculcate into the Minds of your Majesty's faithful Subjects in Maryland, the Principles of that holy Religion which at once teach to fear God and Honour the King.

My Lord.

We the established Clergy of the Province of Maryland now convened, finding the Constitution of the Church of England here in danger from the Growth of Sectaries and attempts made upon our legal and constitutional Rights and Immunities by the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and likewise taking into consideration the Inconveniencies and  
 p. 122 Hardships that the Candidates for Holy Orders labour under in these distant parts of his Majesty's Dominions, have Petitioned the Throne for an American Episcopate and requested his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to forward and second our Address. We likewise beg your Lordship to further that laudable Design which your Lordship well knows will secure the Church from any attempt of the like nature for the future and hand down to our latest Posterity those invaluable Blessings that she enjoys at present at home under that happy Constitution.

For the Bishop }  
 of London. }

Whereupon reading the foregoing Petition of the Clergy to his Excellency and the several Papers accompanying the same this Board after mature Consideration thereon did unanimously advise his Excellency to send the following answer.

Annapolis 15<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1770.

Gentlemen

Though your Address I think imports that it is the Act of the whole Clergy of the established Church, flowing from their general Deliberation and unanimous Opinion, yet to enable me to consider it with propriety in this Light, a clearer Satisfaction is requisite than what arises from the Delivery of a paper by nine Clergyman, or from the formal Attestation of a person in an Official Character unknown in our Constitution and assumed upon I know not what Grounds.