

Liberty and the Terms of the Act as Generall as can be. If the U. H. J. Statute of the 5th of Elizabeth about Servants were to Extend to the Plantations, it would be Destructive to the very being and Constitution of them The same may be Observed of the Statutes of Usury, and that to prevent frauds and perjurys and many others, which have been Expressly & often held not to Extend to the Plantations when doubted either in the Courts of Law or before the King in Councill and yet these are Generall Laws of equal Obligation with any other Law or Statute whatever.

I Think it needless to mention any other Cases unless it be that of Blankard and Galdy and little thought to find a p. 4 position Introduced with that Solemnity, to be only the saying of a Single Councill, on one Side the Question, in opposition to the Averment of the Councill on the other side; and Contrary to the Resolution of the Judges in that very Case viz.

That Jamaica was not Bound by our Laws unless particularly mentioned therein, But by their own particular Laws and Customs.

The full Power I have with the Advice Assent and Approbation of the ffreemen of the Province, or their Delegates to Enact any Laws whatever appertaining either to the Publick State of the Province, or the private Utility of particular Persons so they be Agreeable to Reason and not Repugnant or Contrary, But as near as Conveniently may be Agreeable to the Laws, Statutes Customs and Rights of England, as is most fully set forth in my Charter has put in our hands such Ample power of making Laws proper for our Infant Condition, and different Tenures of Maryland, that you will find it, I Believe your Happiness if the Statutes of England not Expressly located thither, are not in the Gross in force amongst you: and that your Resolutions have not force till Enacted into Laws of your own making with my Assent However Precarious you Gentlemen, who are fond of the Expression may Esteem your Condition; Tis the Condition I think I may use the Expression, tis the Happy Condition the Crown by my Charter has thought fit to Place you under and you by your Residence in Maryland ought quietly to submit to. Your Predecessors have been thus fortunately Govern'd and flourish'd and I trust that your Successors will have no Cause to Complain.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses

I cannot but observe to you at this time what his most p. 5 Gracious Maj^{ty} has been pleased to do in relation to the English Statutes taking place in the plantations in a particular