

U. H. J. you will meet a happy Guidance in your own Knowledge & Experience

p. 2 Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

The Law for ascertaining the Gauge and Tare of Tobacco hogsheads and for other Things therein mentioned is near Expiration, as I have not received any Instructions from His Lordship to the Contrary. I think myself at Liberty to offer His Good Tenants the Continuation for three Years more of that Law, whereby their Tenancy is made so very easy to them, but as the late Law for stinting the Number of Tobacco Plants, may considerably lessen the Export of Hogsheads, the raising an Equivalent thereto to His Lordship, must appear both just and necessary, lest His Indulgency to His Tenants should prove unreasonably disadvantageous to himself,

Gentⁿ of Both Houses

Nothing can be more desireable than a Certainty in Matters of Property, by bringing Controversies of Right to a known End, whcreforc it may seem necessary to limit the Time for Appcals from Chancery, as well as to regulate the Nature of them; And as a Question has arose whether in the Absence of the Governor and first of the Council in Commission, the Senior of the Council then present may preside and proceed to a Determination on Appeals and Writts of Error, it will be prudent to solve it, by empowering in such Case the Senior present so to preside and proceed, otherwise Great Inconveniencies and Delays may happen by the Absence of the Governor or first in Commission, or when Either or both should be Parties concerned in the Matters in Dispute

I heretofore advised a separate Repository for Our Old Records, and I hope you will no longer delay a Security so essential to preserve the Rights of yourselves and your Posterity from the Injury of Common Accidents.

The Act against Engrossers and Reqrators might be very beneficial to the People of this Province, were not the sense thereof confusedly expressed, but a Revisal & Explanation of it may supply its Defects.

p. 3 This leads me to recommend Great Care and Caution in the Penning of Laws since it little availeth to be cautious and circumspect in Our Consultations, if we are not equally such in forming Our Resolutions into Laws

Having thus delivered some things to your Consideration, it remains with you to advise whatever else may be necessary or convenient to promote Our General Welfare, and you may be well assured I shall not fail to advance to the Utmost of my Power, the United Interests of His Majesty, the Lord Proprietary and the Good People of Maryland