

Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, for the Payment of the said Duty or Imposition accordingly.

Session
Laws

And whereas the General Assembly of this Province, on the Twenty Sixth Day of April, Anno Domini 1715, made their humble Application to the late Right Honourable Benedict Leonard Lord Baron of Baltimore, That he would be favourably pleased to accept of his Rents and Fines for Alienations, in Tobacco at Two Pence Sterling per Pound, in such Manner and on such Conditions and Terms as his noble Ancestors have heretofore done, for the greater Ease to their Tenants in the Payment of their Rents, and the better to encourage the Cultivation and Settlement of the remotest Parts of this their Proprietorship.

And forasmuch as the Gratuity formerly settled on his Lordship's Ancestors, before the Decease of the late Right Honourable Charles Lord Baron of Baltimore, was raised by an Impost of Twelve Pence on the Exportation of every Hogshead of Four Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, which Impost determined by the Death of the said Right Honourable Charles Lord Baron of Baltimore, so that thereby his Lordship's Rents became payable in Money. But forasmuch, as to have continued the Payment thereof in Money, would have been wholly Impracticable from the great Scarcity of it amongst us, and that it would not only have tended much to the Disappointment of his Lordship in the Receipt of his Rents, but also to the Oppression of such Tenants as hold Lands under Condition of such punctual Payments, as the Tenor of their Grants requires, and 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 and Forest Lands of this Province, being Part of His Majesty's Dominions; all which Inconveniencies that General Assembly most earnestly desired might be provided against. And forasmuch as the Quantity of Tobacco then usually Exported, or which might be Exported in a Hogshead of the Gauge by this Act settled, exceeded the Quantity which was commonly reputed to be the Contents of a Hogshead, at the Time when the aforesaid Twelve Pence per Hogshead was settled on his Lordship's Ancestors for their making easy the Payment of his Rents and Fines for Alienations aforesaid; and also, for that altho' the Number of Hogsheads commonly Exported, hath much increased since that Time, yet for that the Value of his Lordship's Rents hath much more increased, a Law then passed for raising an Impost of Eighteen Pence Sterling per Hogshead, and Three Pence Sterling per Hundred on Tobacco exported out of this Province in Hogshead, Chest, Barrel or Case, for the Use of the said Lord Proprietary, in Consideration of his taking his Rents and Alienation Fines in Tobacco, at Two Pence Sterling per Pound.