

7^{thly} The Upper & Lower Houses of Assembly having Address'd y^r Ldsp for y^r confirmation of the Act (as Appears by their printed proceedings) y^r pet^{ers} beg leave to return some answer to the reasons they offer therefore

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As to the Welfare of the Province depending upon the Act, y^r Pet^{ers} hope it will have no sort of weight wth y^r Ldsp to confirm this Act of so many various kinds, since the Assembly may, instantly reenact so much as does concern the welfare of the Country, without including y^r pet^{ers}; and had they thought fitt to have don so now, y^r pet^{ers} sho'd not have given y^r Ldsp the trouble of any petition agst the same. But as the Assembly did not think fitt to alter & lessen the Clergy's maintenance by a separate Act (w^{ch} might have stood singly by it's self upon its own reasonableness or unreasonableness, for y^r Lordship's consideration) but on the contrary, altho y^r Ldsp had but just Repeal'd the former Act, for that reason amongst others, have again included the Clergy in an Act, if possible, a more general Act than the former, y^r pet^{ers} humbly Submit to y^r Ldsp to whom any Repeal of this Act ought to be Imputed; since if there were not some very strong intention to lessen the Clergy's maintenance, no fair reason can be given why these clauses were again Inserted in an Act of this Public Nature, & such an Act put in the Hazard thereby? And it is not the Object of Gen^l Dissatisfaction, by Necessitating them to Apply for Releif in the only method they can by a repeal of this Gen^l Law; but after that end obtain'd, for the Assembly to turn the weight of this gen^l Law agst y^r pet^{ers} is without any colour of reason as y^r Pet^{ers} humbly hope. And there was the less pretence to include the Clergy, they, as before Observ'd if they had their 40 p^r poll in Tobacco, not having the 20th part of the Tobacco made.

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The next reason offer'd by the Houses to y^r Ldsp for Supporting this Act, is, that the Grain to be Allow'd the Clergy will be worth as much as the Tobacco taken away wou'd be, if no such Law had past. And th^t the restraint by the Act laid upon the planters will render the $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Tobacco still to be paid to the Clergy of more value than the whole wou'd have been, without such a restraint but y^r Pet^{ers} submit to y^r Lordship, whether both these reasons or indeed either of them, have any certain Foundation; For as it's manifestly hoped at least, that less Tobacco shall be made now than heretofore. If the Planters therefore shou'd for want of other Employment sow any of the Enumerated sorts of Grain, they may become so plenty, as not to be worth the price they are now sett at, & yet the Clergy are to take them at the full price in the Act, when the Grain wou'd not, in such case be near the value of Tobacco. On the other hand also, its by no means fixt or certain that the making a less quantity of Tobacco in Maryland than heretofore (if this Act does produce that Effect, w^{ch} is not Admitted) will, in all Events raise the price of Tobacco in Foreign