

2.2 whether, They are to be governed by the Discretion, (as some People softly term the *Caprice*, and *Arbitrary Pleasure*;) of any Set of Men.

This, or the like Enquiry, cannot be of any great Moment. but to those that are Free: For, such as have the Misfortune to be in a State of Bondage, are in the Condition of *The Ass in the Fable*; sure to be as heavily laden as they can possibly bear, without rendering them useless to their Masters.

But the *People of Maryland* are *Freemen*, and will certainly continue to be such, as long as they enjoy the Benefit of Laws, calculated for the Security of Liberty, and Property, and the Rights of Mankind: But should They be so infatuated as to give up, or so miserable as to forfeit, (which God forbid!) the Benefit of such Laws; They may then, bid adieu to all the Security They have, of enjoying with any Degree of Certainty, anything, however dear, and valuable.

The Considerations put Me upon enquiring, in the best Manner, my very weak Capacity, and other Disadvantages, would admit of, into the Right, which the People of Maryland have, to the Enjoyment of English Liberties; and the Benefit of the English Laws: Which I take to be, and hope to prove are, convertible Terms. In which Enquiry, I have found very good Reasons, (at least, They seem so to Me,) to convince Me, that the said People have such Right.

To the End, therefore, that I may be undeceived, if I am mistaken; or That I may confirm others, in the Truth, and Reasonableness of what I contend for; as well as the mighty Advantage it is of, to the Inhabitants of this Province, I will endeavour to prove the Right.

2.3 I. As the People are English, or British Subjects, and have always adhered to, and continued in their Allegiance to the Crown.

II. As the Rights of English, or British Subjects, are granted unto Them, in the Charter of the Province, to the Lord Proprietary.

But before I proceed to treat of these several Rights, it will not be amiss, to observe, that the Law of England consists of the Common and Statute Laws. That the Common Law, takes in the Law of Nature, the Law of Reason, and the revealed Law of God; which are equally binding, at All Times, in All Places, and to All Persons. And such Usages, and Customs, as have been experimentally found, to suit the Order, and Engagements of Society; and to contain Nothing inconsistent with Honesty, Decency, and Good Man-