

To the Right Honourable CHARLES, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, &c.

The humble ADDRESS of the DELEGATES of the FREEMEN of the Province of Maryland, in General Assembly convened.

May it please your Lordship,

WE, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Delegates of the Freemen of your Province of Maryland, in Assembly convened, return your Lordship our very hearty Thanks for your Speech to the Upper and Lower Houses of this Assembly, communicated to us by our Governor Thomas Bladen, Esq; and for the Professions you have therein been pleased to make of having our Welfare so much at Heart.

Could we be so happy as to have your Lordship residing amongst us, whereby you might be better acquainted with our Affairs and Circumstances than you can well be at so great a distance from us, we persuade ourselves that good Understanding which is so necessary for the general Interest of the common Weal, would at all Times be kept up and cultivated betwixt your Lordship and your Tenants; or did your Lordship think fit to consult with and put confidence in the candid Information and benevolent Disposition of the honest and disinterested People here, instead of the more partial Advices of such as we have reason to Think are no real Friends either to yourself or us, it is more than probable we should not have had occasion to complain of the many Aggrievances we labour under, and which are contained in our former Address which already is or in a short Time will be presented to your Lordship; nor can we suppose that your Lordship would otherwise than from the influence of such malevolent Councils, have declared your Dissent to our late Act for the Assessment and Payment of the Public Charges, whereby many People have greatly suffered, and had it not, by the kind and ready Concurrence of our present Governor, been timely prevented, the whole Province must necessarily have been involved in the greatest Difficulties and Inconveniencies.

As we are willing to flatter ourselves, that your Lordship, upon cool and deliberate consideration, will be satisfied of the Justness of our Complaints, and thereby be induced to relieve us, we are unwilling at this Time to enumerate any new Aggrievances, altho' the withholding from us for a Time the proper Vouchers to support those Complaints, by denying Access to the Public Registries of the Province, and the preventing us to tax ourselves for the better maintaining our Rights and Privileges, might well justify us in so doing: We cannot however, as well in Justice to your Lordship as to ourselves, omit upon this occasion, putting you in mind, that your Lordship hath here a large Country as yet uncultivated and uninhabited, the Peopling whereof must turn to the Interest of your Tenants, and greatly to the Interest of your Lordship, as well as to the Trade and Manufacture of Great-Britain, and that it cannot be reasonably expected that those who can remove themselves will continue, or that others will settle in a Place where their Properties are not secured by fixed and permanent Laws, which must always be the case where those Laws are subject to be disannulled by a Power less than that by which they were made, and we would intreat your Lordship to consider, that the Repealing of Acts once made is exercising a Legislative Power, and that that Power is by the Royal Charter given to your Lordship in conjunction with the Freemen of your Province or their Delegates.

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