

Maryland, that the People, since the first Settling of the Province, have in all Cases, (some few excepted, which particular Acts of Assembly provided for,) looked upon the Laws of *England*, as well Statute as Common, to be *their Laws*, and the Rules of their Conduct. The Tenure, by which they hold all their Land, is Free and Common Soccage; which is a Common-Law Tenure. A great Part, of the most valuable Land in the Province, is intailed, by Virtue of the Statute *de Donis*. (1) A greater Part, devised by Virtue of the Statutes of *Wills*. (2) And not a little, conveyed by Deeds of Lease, and Release, by Virtue of the Statute, for transferring *Uses* into *Possession*. (3) The Statute of *Frauds and Perjuries*, has always been allowed to affect *Devises*, not made conformably to it. (4) And as in *England*, *Usages*, and *Customs*, in Process of Time, have obtained the Force of *Laws*, which they always, afterwards, continued to have, 'till they were altered, or abrogated by the Legislative Authority; so those *Laws*, that have been received in *Maryland*, though the People had no other Right to them, but that *Reception*, and the long-continued Use of them; ought to have the Force of *Laws*, until other Provision is made, by the Legislature of the Province:

(1) 13 E. 1. c. 1. (2) 32 H. 8. c. 1. 34, 35 H. 8. c. 5. (3) 27 H. 8. 1. 10.
 (4) 29 Car. c. 3.

