

Lib. C. B. We have been naturally led to consider the present Circumstances of the Maryland Clergy, and after the fullest and maturest Deliberation We have unanimously resolved that it is highly becoming us to make an Effort as far as in Us lies to introduce if possible Episcopacy into America: a Measure so highly reasonable, so absolutely necessary at this Crisis to the Colonies in general, and we add to Maryland in particular and so peculiarly befitting the Clergy of this Province to be amongst the foremost in soliciting that we cannot doubt of its meeting with your Excellency's perfect Approbation. For it p. 119 must have occurred to you as it has to us that of late the Growth of Sectaries (chiefly to be attributed as we believe to the want of a regularly Governed Clergy) has been so amazingly rapid and their Conduct so daring and vexatious that amongst other instances of their factious Spirit they now daily and openly call in Question even his Lordship's Right of Presentation, an Evil which we fear will daily increase and which we cannot but think can only be effectually put a Stop to by the Admission of an American Bishop. It must then be obvious to your Excellency that the Establishment here cannot subsist much longer without some form of Government. Whether this shall be that constitutional one by Bishops to which alone a Clergyman of the Church of England can in Conscience think it his Duty to Submit, or the unconstitutional and palpably Presbyterian System not long ago warmly contended for by both Houses of Assembly, is a Question hardly less interesting to the Civil Government of this Province than it is to its Clergy. The Jurisdiction of a Presbytery and every other Jurisdiction in its Principles akin to it is so adverse to the Frame and Scope of our excellent Establishment both in Church and State that in attempting to keep it forever at a distance from Maryland we trust your Excellency will consider us as doing what most undoubtedly is our Duty ever to do consulting the best Interests of the Lord Proprietary and the Welfare of the Community at large, as well as our own in particular. On these Principles and on these Considerations alone, we presume to solicit your Excellency's Concurrence and Assistance in promoting so salutary a Scheme. Every step in our Power conducive thereto we have taken; We have applied to the Throne, to Lord Baltimore, to His Grace of Canterbury and to the Bishop of London, Copies of which Applications we think it incumbent on us to lay before your Excellency with a request that you will be pleased as soon as may be to transmit our Letter to Lord Baltimore, and should it be in your Excellency's Power to lend a helping Hand to the furtherance of this good Design, as we believe it greatly is,