

THE CHARTER OF MARYLAND.

and prætorian judicatories, and before all the judges whatsoever of us, our heirs and successors, for a sufficient and lawful discharge, payment, and acquittance thereof, charging all and singular the officers and ministers of us, our heirs and successors, and enjoining them, under our heavy displeasure, that they do not at any time presume to attempt any thing to the contrary of the premises, or that may in any wise contravene the same, but that they, at all times, as is fitting, do aid and assist the aforesaid now baron of Baltimore, and his heirs, and the aforesaid inhabitants and merchants of the province of Maryland aforesaid, and their servants and ministers, factors and assigns, in the fullest use and enjoyment of this our charter.

XXI. AND furthermore we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do grant unto the aforesaid now baron of Baltimore, his heirs and assigns, and to the freeholders and inhabitants of the said province, both present and to come, and to every of them, that the said province, and the freeholders or inhabitants of the said colony or country, shall not henceforth be held or reputed a member or part of the land of Virginia, or of any other colony already transported, or hereafter to be transported, or be dependent on the same, or subordinate in any kind of government, from which we do separate both the said province, and inhabitants thereof, and by these presents do will to be distinct, and that they may be immediately subject to our crown of England, and dependent on the same for ever.

XXII. AND if, peradventure, hereafter it may happen, that any doubts or questions should arise concerning the true sense and meaning of any word, clause or sentence, contained in this our present charter, we will, charge and command, that interpretation to be applied, always, and in all things, and in all our courts and judicatories whatsoever, to obtain which shall be judged to be the more beneficial, profitable, and favourable to the aforesaid now baron of Baltimore, his heirs and assigns: Provided always, that no interpretation thereof be made, whereby God's holy and true christian religion, or the allegiance due to us, our heirs and successors, may in any wise suffer by change, prejudice, or diminution; although express mention be not made in these presents of the true yearly value or certainty of the premises, or of any part thereof, or of other gifts and grants made by us, our heirs and predecessors, unto the said now lord Baltimore, or any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation or restraint, heretofore had, made, published, ordained or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

XXIII. IN witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness our-
SELF at Westminster, the twentieth day of June, in the eighth year of our reign.