

May it please your Excellency,

*WE* his Majesty's Dutiful Liege Subjects, the Delegates of the Freemen of Maryland in Assembly Convened, return your Excellency Thanks for the kind Intentions you are pleased in your Answer of Yesterday to express yourself to have, for the good of this Province.

The Subject Matter of our late Address in relation to the Duty of Twelve Pence per Hogshead collected by his Lordship for his own Use, ever since 1733, without a Law to support the same, has not been fully considered or debated by this House before this Sessions, tho' objected to by many out of Doors. But we hope our Silence and Meekness hitherto, will not deprive us of the Right of Redress, now Application is made in order to obtain the same.

We assure your Excellency we have no new Light either in Politicks or Religion, the first being that which we conceive the undoubted Birth Right of every British Free Born Subject, that is, to support our own and Constituents Rights, Liberties and Property: The other the Light of the Holy Gospel, manifested by the blessed Author thereof, and as purely taught in the Church of England, by Law established.

Whatever Light the Act of 1704 may appear to your Excellency in, we are still of Opinion it was never intended by the Legislators to grant the Duty therein mentioned to the Lord Baltimore, his Heirs or Assigns, and that he is not any way within the letter or meaning thereof to that Purpose: As this must be set Right by higher Authority, we shall humbly submit thereto, not in the least doubting from our most Gracious Liege Lord and Sovereign, an impartial Determination in this or any other Point, on an equal Application and a fair and clear State, and which we humbly think ought not to be interrupted; however it is attempted to be in our Case here, whether from self Interest, or sinister Design may appear.

We are very sorry to have any cause of Contention with your Excellency, for we faithfully assure you, we desire to live Quietly and Peaceably as becoming dutiful and good Subjects, and hope it will not be attributed to us as a Fault, that we insist on our undoubted Right, and on Truth, in doing which we shall avoid any Invektive or indirect Means or Innuendoes.

It clearly appears to this House as it did to their Committee, (and which they were ready to evince, and to that Purpose ordered their Clerk to attend) That the Act made in 1692, entituled, An Act for Settlement of an annual Revenue upon their Majesties Governor within this Province for the Time being, and Recorded in Liber L. L. Folio 21, &c. was at a Session of Assembly, held at the Port of Annapolis the 28th Day