

[Sharpe to Baltimore.]

Letter Bk. I.

5th of May 1756.

My Ld

Inclosed is a Duplicate of the last Letter that I took the Liberty to address to your Ldp since the writing of which I have been honoured with your Lordship's Instructions dated the 27th of Octob. to which I hope Your Ldp will be persuaded that due Obedience shall be paid & that no persons of a different Religion from that by Law established shall be encouraged, or ever escape with Impunity when they forget to behave as becomes good & loyal Subjects. I had anticipated your Ldp's Command to send Circular Lett^s to the Magistrates to enquire into the Roman Catholick's Lives & Conduct & upon the Report of all the Magistrates I can assure Your Ldp that none of them have lately given just Cause of Offence, & I hope the Lower House of Assembly are so well convinced of it that they will not offer any more Addresses on this Subject. I have inclosed to M^r Calvert a Copy of their last Address which I presume will be submitted to your Lordship & I hope your Ldp will not disapprove of the Answer that I returned. The Assembly is still sitting & have not yet come to a final Determination about the Supply Bill which alone has hitherto engrossed their whole Attention. I know not when they will come to a Conclusion but am in hopes that I shall at least be able to judge what will be the Event of our Meeting before I write by a Ship that is expected to sail in about 10 Days. With regard to the present Condition of Your Ldp's Province & the unhappy Situation of the Frontier Inhabitants I have little to add to what I mentioned in my last Letter, those that are exposed to immediate Danger want Spirit & Unanimity & those that are remote seem to have but little Feeling for the Miseries of their Fellow Subjects. Conegochiegh is at length become the Frontier Settlement in Maryland & by what I can learn Shanadoe River is almost the Western Limit of Virg^a Notwithstanding the Forts that have been built & garrisoned along the Frontiers of Pensilvania the Indians continue to make Incursions & the Country for a great many Miles within the Forts is already abandoned. In Virg^a several of their little Forts have been attacked & some reduced & a Captain of the Virg^a Regiment with a Detachment of 60 men was about a fortnight ago defeated by a large party of Indians about 20 Miles on this Side Fort Cumberland. the Captain Lieutenant & 15 of the Detachment were killed the rest retired to a little Fort that happened to be near the place where the Action happened. Another Party of Indians have been attacked by some Virginia Planters with better Success the party was led or com-