

Peace, and Concord is the Liberty of Conscience to all who profess to believe Christianity, so that every one lives quietly and peaceably with his Neighbour neither molesting or being molested for Difference of Judgment in Religion.—Doctor Douglass upon the same Subject says “that towards the End of King James 1.st Reign Sir G Calvert principal Secretary of State afterwards Lord Baltimore obtained a Patent for some Fishing Harbours in Newfoundland by reason of the civil Troubles in England these Settlements were discontinued, and being a zealous Roman Catholic with other dissenting Zealots of various Sectaries he left England, and went to Virginia ”

U. H. J.
Liber No. 35
May 4

The same Author again “upon a Royal Proclamation in Virginia several Families went over from England to settle there, among those was Lord Baltimore a rigid Roman Catholic for the advantage of his Religion he retired thither, but being ill used by the Church of England Sectary petitioned for a Grant of the Province of Maryland. In the first two Years says the Author in another Passage it’s said this Settlement cost Lord Baltimore £40000 Sterling by bringing over People, Provisions, &c.”—Again “By an Act of Assembly for Liberty of Conscience to all Persons who profess Christianity Protestant Dissenters as well as Roman Catholicks were induced to settle there.” Salmon in his modern History says “that Lord Baltimore having obtained a Grant of the Province of Maryland sent over his Brother with several Roman Catholic Gentlemen & other Adventurers to the Number of two hundred, many Roman Catholics transported themselves thither to avoid the pœnal Laws made against them in England, and Maryland has been a Place of Refuge &c:” many other Passages from Books to the like Effect might be cited but we presume they would be unnecessary.

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This Imposition it seems you did not apprehend and have been opposed at this dangerous Crisis when a foreign Popish Power is exerting it’s utmost Efforts to subject the British Colonies in North America to Popery and Slavery. Do you mean by this that a Measure which would have the Effect of banishing the Roman Catholics ought at this Time to be established, or that a double Tax upon them will make them more peaceable or better affected to our Interests? if the former be your Meaning you are already answered; if the latter, it is such an Expedient as seems to be but ill calculated to accomplish the End you propose Hardships & Severities are not so apt to inspire peaceable Sentiments as Mildness or Moderation, which in it’s Nature is more conciliating and attractive of Affection and may strengthen Inclination with the Motives of Duty and Interest.

That the Roman Catholics have from the Beginning of this War behaved in a very quiet and inoffensive Manner will not we presume be denied, if it should be, not one Proof that we know or have heard of can be produced to the Contrary and very ample Testimonials in their Favour to which you can be no Stranger may be urged.