

May it please Your Excellency;

After having Published our own Happiness in the Tender Regards their Lordships have expressed to both the Houses of Assembly, give us leave now, Sir, to Congratulate your Excellency upon their Lordship's kind Declarations in your own Favour, by entirely Condemning the indiscreet and Malicious Proceedings of some of the *Roman Catholics* against you, during your Administration here; which cannot but give your Excellency a peculiar Satisfaction, as it Justifies your Conduct from the many repeated Calumnies cast upon you by a Party that sought your Ruin.

We hope now that their Lordships have been Undeceived, as to the true Motives and Inducements of many of our late Proceedings, and that the Cryes of *Persecution, Persecution*, will never more Engage, nor so much as Move their Lordship's Compassion, unless proved, as well as Complained of.

We readily acquiesce with your Excellency in affirming, that we know of no Person Persecuted meerly upon Account of his *Religion*; but if Laws for the Preservation of the Peace and Tranquillity of this Province, without Infringing the Rights or Priviledges of any Particular Person, be accounted Persecution; then we must confess our selves a Persecuting Administration; but that the Consequence of such notion must needs be, that all wholesome Laws made for the Preservation of *Life or Property*, would, for the same Reason, be Deemed a *Persecution of Felons and Murderers*; a Principle so Horrid and Savage in it self, that every Community of Reasonable Creatures will Explode it, as Destructive of all Civil Society.

As to the Proceedings against a particular Person mentioned in the *Act for the better Supporting of Magistrates, &c.* We are inclined to believe, that no other Circumstance, than that of Condemning a Person unheard, would have prevailed to the Repeal of that Act; which their Lordships, in a Just Regard of the Rights and Liberties of an *English Subject*, could not, in Prudence, Justify; after some eminent practitioners in the Law had given their Opinions, that it was Arbitrary and Illegal, altho' we have but just Reason to suspect, that the party therein Charged, having a just apprehension of his own Demerits, forbore making any application in our House, lest, if he had been Condemned here, his project had been defeated, in designing to Clamour in *England* against the Justice of the Act. Which design manifestly appears by his artful management, in defering his Petition to the Lower House, until after the Bill had been Engrossed there (which if we are not mis-informed) was the answer of that House to him, and the Foundation of his Complaint in *England*, that he was Condemned unheard.

The Propagation of *Learning*, and with it the Principles of *Christianity* in this Remote part of the World, is a Subject worthy the Consideration of all Good and Pious *Christians*. But forasmuch as all our Funds, now settled, are Short of the end designed, We are by such Incapacity made so much the more Sensible of our Misfortune, that the Revenue arising from the Duty of *One penny per Pound* on *Tobacco* Exported out of this Province, is wholly applyed to the maintenance and support of a *Colledge of Learning, in Virginia*, which the Youth of this Province Reaps no manner of Benefit by, altho' we are much worse provided with *Private Schools*, than that Colony. Wherefore we cannot, upon this occasion, help Expressing our desires, that some Proper and Dutiful Application were made to His Sacred Majesty, whose Gracious and Bountiful Liberality hath diffused it self into all, even the Remotest parts of His Majesty's Dominions, that His Majesty would be pleased to appropriate so much of the said *One penny per pound* as arises on *Tobacco* Exported out of this Province, to the Use and Benefit of the *Free-Schools* already