

by their Lordships' prudence, Discouraged in their Practices - and also opposed by me in their pretended right of not being unqualified, as it is termed, and likewise impeded of employing those officers, they had so surpris'd obtained and which indeed they were unqualified for, it was a natural Conclusion after such a defect that they would have satt Downe; and been contented and easy under the protection of the Government as they were permitted to be - But on the contrary, the Roman Catholics, indefatigable in their Designs turned all their Rage and fury of Disappointment to Calumniate my Conduct and my bearing of Indignities upon me us'd their utmost Efforts thereby to remove me from this Station -

To gaine this point - I am informed of a very large Summe of Money was subscribed for by the leading Men of the Romish Community - and some of them went as Comissarys to London, and were very active their agt. me, and Exclaimed in bitter terms of my persecuting the Jesuits in this Province, and how Cruel manner they were treated in and even Debar'd the Liberty of a free Commerce -

When I demonstrated to their Lordships how Groundless and unjustly these Clamours were their Lordships and <sup>as</sup> was so just and so much for their Honour, as well as vindication of my Character that I take it - as a duty, to give you their Lordshps. Sentiments in their own words, as I have them by a Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> of Nov. past & are as follows; it is very true Representations have been made to us of your and Severity to the Roman Catholics; but as those Representations appear to be grounded only on Feare and Delusions not Facts - so we must approve of your Integrity to us, in keeping them in due bounds by the Gentle methods you have taken -

Gentlemen

As there has been no opportunity last by which the Roman Catholics imagined they might determine in the Duty of my office - so they had upon Cases most unfairly stated obtained the opinion of three Eminent Lawyers on the act of Assembly of this Province for suspending the prosecution of Jesuits, priests &c. -

These opinions shall be laid before you for your Consideration upon them - Upon my Representation of the Case to their Lordships in the clearest view I was Capable of I have the Honour of their Lordships answer upon the occasion as follows -

Off the Learning Councils opinions were given on Cases not fairly stated the Roman Catholics must thank themselves, for we are so far from Imagining of any Countenance should be given them, in y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>icious practice, of perverting people