

Settlements on them, are worthy your Observation.

But I must remark to you, should this party or other, be suffered to insult the Courts as he had so often done with Impunity, it would destroy the very Essence of all Authority, and power amongst you, which are principally constituted to pull down, and punish the Haughty and the bad, and to support, and cherish the Humble and good.

I do therefore recommend it to you to make such provision, as may support the Magistrates in the administration of Justice, which may not be liable to the former Exception, and that you will find agreeable to their Lordships Opinions and inclinations.

Gentlemen of the Lower House,

I have the Honour to receive late Letters from their Lordships signifying their Concern & Resentment for the Indiscreet and Malicious Proceedings of some of the Roman Catholics against me.

Which gives me great Satisfaction, so that depending on their Lordships Favours, and Protection it is unwillingly I again name that Community in a publick Manner, were it not to disabuse those Persons whom they have unjustly persecuted against me, by urging that the Roman Catholics are under a prosecution in Maryland, which in this place is so well known to be a notorious untruth that it scarcely deserves a Reply. But their Clamours on this score having reached Great Britain with very aggravating Circumstances I am laid under a necessity of Justifying my Character from this Barbarous Imputation in this open way to the world, by declaring I never had other Views or intentions against the Roman Catholics, but to prevent their Employing of officers or of having any Influence either publickly or privately on the administration of this Province Government, and that I looked upon as my indispensable Duty, as a Governour I know no Cause to alter my Sentiments, when in private Capacity and am always ready when required to give an account of my Conduct and Stewardship to my Superiors.

As for the unreasons Cries of persecution; I do now in the face of the Country, Challenge and defy the Roman Catholics or their adherents to shew one Instance wherein they, or any of them have been persecuted by Law on any account - and this I require may be made as publickly as possible to the end that all that are concerned may have due notice of it, both on my own account, and for the Justification of the Magistracy of this Province from this false aspersions of violence and inclemencies. I am now convinced there are some of the Romish Persuasion and to their praise I speak it, who