

“ IN the Year 1640 the Assembly declared their Thankfulness (as they expressed themselves) to Almighty GOD for the Benefits they had received, since this Colony was first brought here, and planted at his Lordship's *great Charge*, and *Expence*, and continued by his Care and Industry, and in Confidence that their Posterities will remember the Benefits conferred by his Lordship, and his Heirs, desired that this may be preserved as a Memorial to all Posterity, to endure among the Records for ever, of their Thankfulness, and Fidelity.”

IN the Year 1688 it was declared in Assembly, “ that there was nothing more certain than that his Lordship, and his Noble Ancestors had, with the Hazards of their Lives, *buried a vast Estate* in the first Subduement, and continued Settlement of this Province, to a far greater Value than the Profits of this Province did at that Time, or were likely to amount unto.”

EXPRESSIONS of the warmest Gratitude to his Lordship for his unwearied Care of the People, for the Benefits the People had derived from it, for the vast Charge, and Expence he had incurred in the Settlement of the Province, every where occur among the old Journals, and Acts of Assembly,

THIS Fact, of the great Charge, and Expence to the Proprietary in the Settlement of this Province, is taken Notice of by several Writers.

OGILBY says that “ *Maryland* at the *vast Charge*, and by the unwearied Industry, and Endeavour of Lord *Baltimore*, was at first planted, and hath since been supplied with People, and other Necessaries so effectually, that in the present Year (*viz.* 1671) the Number of *English* amounts unto Fifteen or Twenty Thousand”—*Morden* observes that “ the Peopling, and Trade of *Maryland* by the *vast Expence*, and Industry of the Lord *Baltimore* hath been improved to a great Height—Dr. *Douglafs* speaks of its having cost Lord *Baltimore* *Forty Thousand Pounds Sterling* in the *first Two Years* of the Settlement of *Maryland*, by bringing over People Provisions, &c.

WHETHER People were *insnared*, as the Report insinuates, by Misrepresentations of the Quality of our Soil, that is, whether the Soil of this Province did not deserve the Character of *Fertility*, you can judge without any new Information.

THE Report “ calls the *Liberty of Conscience* promised to the Settlers a *specious Pretence*, just with as much Truth as it asserted that Lord *Baltimore*, and his Father had been but at *little Expence*, in seating the Province.

VERY early in the Settlement of this Province, a Law passed enacting that “ whatsoever Person should, on any Occasion, in a reproachful Manner call any Inhabitant, or Resident, or Person trading within the Province an Heretic, Schismatic, Idolater, Puritan, Independent, Presbyterian, Popish Priest, Jesuit, Papist, Lutheran, Calvinist, Brownist, Antinomian, Barrowist, Roundhead, Separatist, or any other Name in a reproachful Manner *relating to Religion*, should forfeit for every Offence Ten Shillings Sterling, and whereas the enforcing the Conscience in Matters of Religion hath frequently fallen out to be dangerous to those Commonwealths, where it hath been practised, and for the more quiet, and peaceable Government of this Province, and the better to preserve mutual Love, and Unity, it was also enacted that no Person professing to believe in JESUS CHRIST should be any way troubled, molested, or discountenanced for, or in respect of Religion, nor in the free Exercise thereof.” This Act was perpetual, and was confirmed in 1676.

IN the Year 1657, Lord *Baltimore* declared he never would give his Assent to the Repeal of the above Act—In the Oath taken by the Governor, and Council, between the Years 1636, and 1657, there was the following Clause, “ I will not by myself, or other, directly or indirectly trouble, molest, or discountenance any Person professing to believe in JESUS CHRIST for, or in Respect of Religion.” The Governor's Oath proceeded further “ that he would make no Difference of Persons in conferring Offices, Rewards, or Favours for, or in Respect of Religion; but merely as they should be found faithful, and well deserving, and endued with moral Qualities, and Abilities; that his Aim should be public Unity, and if any Person or Officer should molest, or disturb any Person professing to believe in CHRIST, on Account of his Religion, he would protect the Person molested, and punish the Offender.”

By the Oath of Fidelity taken by the Inhabitants, they were not to infringe, or prejudice *Liberty of Conscience* in Matters of Religion.

SUCH Securities, the strongest that Laws and Oaths could give, were surely very improperly called *specious Pretences*; but the Language of Men possessed by Passion, and Prejudice, in giving Praise, and in passing Censure is apt to be extravagant. Mr. *Copley* must have been conscious of the