

P. R. O.
Colonial
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inveterate, malignant, turbulent spirits have cast thereon. And therefore in the first place, we doe hereby unanimously acknowledge & publish to the world the general freedom & priviledge which we and all persons whatsoever Inhabitants of this Province, of what condicion soever, doe enjoy in our lives, liberties and estates under this His Lordship's Government according to the grand priviledges of Magna Charta, as effectually and in as full & ample manner to all intents & purposes as any of His Majestie's Subjects within any part of His Majestie's dominions whatsoever with the free & public exercise & enjoyment of our religion whatsoever it be, whether Protestant or other professing the name of Jesus, according to an Act of Assembly of this Province in that case made out & provided, and to which we and the whole Province in general either by ourselves or our representatives in a General Assembly have given our assent. We doe also declare and make known that besides our owne experience we have observed his Lordshipp's favours impartially distributed, and Places of Honor, trust and profit conferred on the most qualified for that purpose & service without any respect or regard had to the religion of the participants, of which generally and for the most part it hath so happened that the Protestants have been the greatest number, the halfe of His Lordshipp's Council nearest to his person are Protestants, his late Governor Thomas Notely Esq^{re} and Benjamin rozer Esq^{re} of his Council also lately deceased both Protestants, the major part of his Lordshipp's Comissioners or Justices of the peace in each respective County within this Province Protestants, those likewise that have the charge of the Militia of this Province generally or for the most part Protestants, vizt. Colonel Thomas Tailler, Colonel Henry Coursey, Colonel William Stevens, Colonel William Burges, Col: William Colebourne, Colonel Philæmon Lloyd, Colonel George Wells, Colonel Henry Jowles, and Colonel Chandler, nine Colonels or principal Officers of the Militia all Protestants, and but Colonel William Calvert, Colonel Vincent Lowe, and Colonel Henry Darnell, (when present) onely three of the romish persuasion Colonels or principal Officers of the Militia within or belonging to the Province, in like manner all other Officers & places of Honor or profit within this Province civill or military impartially and equally (if not for the most part on Protestants) conferred. This not only in vindication of his Lordships honor, and this his Government, but also for the publick interest of the Province therein concerned, and to discharge a good conscience, we for ourselves and in the behalfe of severall others whom we know (if not the whole Province in generall, every individuall person thereof, who we are confident and do verily believe would (if requested) readily doe