

Letter Bk. I.
p. 136

[Sharpe to Calvert.]

transmitted by Virg^a dated 9 July. [1755]

Sir

As I am dispatching an Express to Virg^a I request the favour of Gov^r Dinwiddie to put this on Board the first Ship that sails, to acquaint you that finding the Burgesses determined to do nothing either for his Majesty's Service or their own Protection unless the Points for which they have been contending were given up to them, I prorogued our Assembly yesterday Evening after they had twice requested me to be dismissed in the Course of the Session they presented me with a furious Address against Roman Catholicks which you will see inclosed: as I thought it contained some indecent Reflections I thought it improper to let it pass unanswered as you will also see by the papers herewith transmitted. The Occasion of it was the late preferment of the Attorney General (who unhappily is no Favourite with the People) to the Naval Office of Potuxent. I beleive too their warmth was increased by some Letters writ hither some time since intimating that if M^r Hanbury had not prevented it you would have got M^r Darnal appointed to a Seat in the Council. for my part I have not heard but the Papists behave themselves peaceably and as good Subjects, They are I imagine about one twelfth of the People & many of them are Men of pretty considerable Fortunes; I conceive their Numbers do not increase tho I have reason to think the greater part of the Germans which are imported profess that Religion. As the Lower House first resolved that all the Penal Laws mentioned in the Tolleration Act are in force within this Province, tho some of them have been entirely & others in part repealed by later Acts of Parliament, I declined granting the Request in the Conclusion of their Address lest the Courts should govern themselves in some sort by the Resolve of the Lower House of Assembly & a fiery Persecution should ensue. This Part of my Conduct will not I hope be disapproved of by his Lordsp or yourself, & I hope you will think that nothing has been left undone to bring the Assembly to Reason & Temper tho our Endeavours have failed of Success. A Bill for an Agent was sent to the Upper House but immediately rejected. Gov^r Moris informs me that all his Endeavours have proved equally unsuccessful & that he cannot think of meeting the Assembly of that province again unless some Reformation be first made in their Constitution. We are advised from the Northern Gov^{ts} that the French Fleet consisting of 6 Men of War & 9 large Transports with 4000 Land Forces on board are in the Harbour of Louisburg, & that Admiral Boscawen lies before that Town with 13 Capital Ships. Gov^r Dinwiddie also informs me that two parties of