

Letter Bk. I. Magistrates) & that persons of the Roman Catholick persuasion are so far from being allowed any Liberties or Priviledges in His Majesty's several Colonies that they are absolutely excluded or daily persecuted, but this matter I submit entirely to His Ldp's & your own Judgment & Determination with this Remark only that if nothing had been at this time done for the Security & Defence of the Frontier Inhabitants, the Value of theirs as well as of all Estates in the Province would have sunk more in two years than the Tax which is imposed on them respectively will amount to in the five years for which the Act is made to endure. Concerning that Part of the Bill which imposes the Land Tax I presume Col^o Lloyd will write to you very particularly as it is a matter which in some Sort relates to himself & which as Agent he ought to be most intimately acquainted with; I thought it highly necessary that he should be present in the Upper House when the Affair came under their consideration & therefore I writ to him & insisted on his coming over before the Conference was begun or agreed to. I submitted to the Council Extracts of the Letters in which I mentioned to His Ldp or yourself the late Disputes between Governor Morris & his Assembly & also your Answer thereto in your Letter dated the 24th of Oct^r & desired they would maturely consider the Affair & give me their Advice thereon. Col^o Lloyd enlarged on the Losses His Ldp suffered last year on Account of these unhappy Disturbances & the distracted & defenceless Condition of the Province & undertook to shew that His Ldp's proportion of the Tax about to be imposed by the Bill would be far short of the Interest of the Money that he lost last year, if then said he nothing be done for the Security of the Province (& that nothing would be done if the Bill had been refused on Account of that Clause was evident) Purchasers of Land will be much fewer this year than they were last, & continue to decrease till effectual measures are taken for our Defence; His Ldps Revenue from Lands will consequently diminish in proportion, & so His Ldp will in effect be a much greater Loser by the Bill's being rejected because it imposes a Tax of perhaps £80 a year for five years on His Ldps Lands, than if it was to pass & make His Ldp liable to the payment of double the Sum: It was also argued that such Lands as are held by Tenants under the Crown in England are subjected to the poundage there, & that by inserting in all the Leases as they come to be renewed a Clause to oblige the Tenant to pay all Taxes &c the Burthen might in great measure be taken from His Ldp. It was observed that the matter under Consideration was by no means similar with the late Cause of Dispute in Pens^a for that the Pens^a Assembly insisted that all the Proprietaries real & personal Estate there