

the last Summer out of Malevolent Spirit ag^t persons of the Roman Catholick persuasion two Indictm^s were preferred & Bills found by the Grand Iury for Talbot County in the said province ag^t y^r Petitioner as Clerk & Priest of the Church of Rome for having as one of the s^d Indictments alledged on the 20th day of Aug^t 1756 (& at sundry times before & since) in the House of David Iones & Tho^s Browning in the said County Officiated Mass

And by the other of the s^d Indictments it was Alledged that y^r Petitioner on the 1st of Aug^t 1756 (& at sundry times before & since in the s^d County) had strove endeavoured & practice to persuade & withdraw Rachael Mackmanus Spinster from her Religion of a Protestant Dissenter (being bred a Quaker) to the Religion of the Church of Rome; and w^h Indictments y^r Petitioner was on the 29th Day of Sep^r last taken up & obliged to give Bail in 1500^l penalty for his Appearance" . . . He denies the charge of having endeavoured withdraw the s^d Rachael Mackmanus from her Religion." says, "he never had any serious Conversation with her on the subject in all his life" As to the Charge for saying Mass, says, "he conceives it not nor ever was intention to forbid the Excerise of the Roman Catholick Religion in private Family's & would tend to Depopulate that profitable Colony & as was declared by an order by her Majesty in Council the 3^d of Jan^y 1705. . . And at this pres^t time the Romish Religion is not only in Pensilvania tolerated, but the Quakers there have Contributed to the Building in the Capital (Philadelphia) a Chapple for the Roman Catholicks, where they perform Worship publickly &c.

He concludes his Petition . . . Humbly pray y^r Lordship would be pleased to Order the Govern^r of the s^d Province of Maryland to direct the Attor^y General there to Grant a Noli prosequi to the said Indictments. Or in Case of any Conviction to Grant y^r Petitioner a Pardon.

In answer to the said Petition. I write y^r Brother Ioshua Sharpe Attor^y & Soll^r for the above party, to Inform the Party by the directions of my Lord Viz^t "That his Lord^p has considered the Contents of M^r Beadnall's Petition delivered him, that the Method in the prosecution of Roman Catholicks on Religious Concerns in Maryland is by known Laws not only of the Province But also, by Acts of Parliament throughout his Majesty's Realm, that he sets up no Persecution upon them, But if they are brought before his Provincial Courts of Iustice arraigned & accused, on Conviction they are to be punished; that he is wholly unacquainted with the Contents of the Petition from his Lieu^t Governor, cannot from the matter set forth comply with the prayer of the said M^r Beadnall's Petition"

C. C.