

his Tryal, as Principal in the Rape, with the Two Women as Accessarys before the fact, Before Baron Smyth at Kingston assizes, when they were all Three Acquitted. There is a Second Indictment for a Supposed Conspiracy in seducing the Woman, which remains to be Tryed at a future Assizes, or before the Kings Bench, but that is for a Misdemeanor only, and we likewise talk in our turn of Indictments for Perjury Conspiracy &c. & of ultimately Consigning the Lady to your Excellency, If found worth while, on account of the object and expence, for as to the Iniquity & Wickedness of the whole Business (Considered in a Criminal Light) there never was a stronger Case. But the serious part of the business is at an end, & I most heartily Congratulate your Excellency and the whole Province upon it; His Lordship through the whole Business Demeaned himself with the greatest fortitude & firmness, and, as a Specimen, you will Permit me to Inclose you a Copy of his Manly Address to the Court, when called upon to make his Defence.

You will easily perceive & excuse the necessary Interruption given by this unlucky Affair to our Correspondence; for half the time his Lordship was out of reach to favor me with his Instructions, & the other half was fully Engaged in Collecting Materials for Vindicating his Innocence; The uncertainty too of the Event, (in a Prosecution Supported by Fanaticism, Associations, Subscriptions, and every Diabolical Engine of Destruction, and in a Country equally governed by Faction & Mob, where being a Lord is cause Sufficient with the People & the sovereignty of his possessions with Government & his Peers, to Devote him to ruin,) was alone a Sufficient Consideration to Stay my Pen, & to induce me, scarce knowing what to Write, to Prefer silence for a time.

I shall now Address myself to yo^r Excellencys sev^l favors, hitherto unnoticed, in their different order.

His Lordship desires me to Acknowledge the Receipt of the Firsts of 32 setts of Bills of Exchange for £1363 18 5½ in part of the first Paym^t for Parcels of Ann Arundel Manor, & I am sorry to find so Indifferent an Account of the progress in the Sales of the other Manors.

Mess^{rs} Mason & Dixon are not yet arrived tho' daily expected according to yo^r Letter of 29 October.

M^r Benjⁿ Tasker has given his Lordship very material Information as to Talbot Manor, by which I find his right arises under different forfeitures in 1684 & 1714 & that ever since his memory the Ten^{ts} have paid their rents to the Lord Proprietary, & the Orig^l Inquest is Recorded in the Secretarys Office. The Devisees indeed, as you know deny the latter forfeiture upon the footing of Identity, Insisting that the