

B. M. Vol. 26. much reflected on thereby we humbly begg leave of your Lordships to doe his Ex^{cy} what Justice wee can by acquainting your Lordships with the reasons and motives of that Letter & what wee know of our one knowledge of his present Ex^{cy} since that time.

As to the motives It was purely at the Instance and averrm^t of his s^d Ex^{cy} Lyonell Copley Esq^{re} and M^r Blackstone who was the onely person wth whome he permitted private Conference or Imparted secrets to both of whome did assure us that they had great reason to suspect such things as is mentioned in the first part of that Letter and said that they had sever^l Informations and should in some time gett proof of such practises in his s^d Ex^{cy} Francis Nicholson Esq^{re} as are there mentioned and thereupon the Clk. having by Ord^r as wee conceive prepared a Letter for us to signe It was tendred to us and wee desired to Signe it which wee did but never after heard any proofe of those allegacions nor anything more of them.

But since that upon better acquaintance and knowledge of his Ex^{cy} Govern^r Nicholson wee find the direct contrary principles in him to what was then asserted, that he is so farr from Dis-affecting the then and present Constitution of Governm^t that it hath been his great care and studdy to preserve and Improve the same by the best measures and meanes he can.

And as to Conntenanceing Papists &c wee find nothing in him tending that way unless it be his administering Justice to them where it is due without distinguishing one Sect from another but on the contrary our Journals and all other records makes appeare and wee are assured that none has ever done more both by his persuasions and examples & large Guifts to propagate the Protestant religion in this Province then hee.

This wee thought ourselves obliged in Justice to say to yo^r Lordships to vindicate the Hono^r of his Ex^{cy} and wype of the afores^d reflections in a manner imposed on

Yo^r Lordships most humble Servants
 Nich: Greenberry
 Tho. Tench
 John Courts
 Tho. Brooke.

Vol. 25.

[Wm. Penn to E Randolph.]

Warminghurst, 16 Oct. 1697.

Edward Randolph.

I shall not fail to oblige Cl. Markham to use his Authority to right the Interest of the Crown in all respects, and if thou