

Lib. J. R. & U. S. At a Council held at the City of Annapolis on Thursday the 15th Day of April in the fifth year of his Lordships Dominion Annoque Domini: 1756.

Present

the hon ^{ble}	{	Benjamin Tasker Esq ^r	}	Richard Lee Esq ^r
		Philip Thomas Esq ^r		Benedict Calvert Esq ^r
		Samuel Chamberlaine Esq ^r		Colonel Goldsborough
		Colonel Benjamin Tasker		

His Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board some Extracts of Instructions, sent him by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary which are ordered to be entred as follow

Art: 4th date 3 Mar. 1753 "You are to permit a Liberty of Conscience to all persons (except Papists) so they be contented with a quiet, and peaceable Enjoyment of the same, not giving Offence, or Scandal to the Government."

Art. 9th date 17th April 1754 p. 94 Having received a Copy of a Bill that was brought in and read the first time in the Lower House, and putt off to next Sessions "to prevent the further Growth of Popery" the sections thereof containing Matters of the greatest Importance, and Consequence, and as the first of W^m and Mary commonly called the toleration Act, and the several penal Acts of Parliament therein mentioned, being before them enacted to be in full Force, within the Province &c. besides other Acts in force, as by Acts of Assembly, I think the Penalties in the said several Acts in force sufficient Protection against all Injury from Popery; however as to further Consideration thereon I hope and do expect the Legislative Authority of the Province will judiciously and truly determine thereupon so as not to affect any lay Roman Catholick in Maryland, contrary to such Conditions as to his Rights and privileges he doth enjoy throughout his Majestys Plantations in America nor thereby p^rvent the Increase of Inhabitant Setlers within the Province. Any Bill for such Purposes, I desire and require of you not to pass, and that you will not pass any Bill that admits of any Clause of Evidence or Words reputed Evidence, so as to affect in Judgment by any Court of Justice any Persons either in Life or property whatsoever

10. And whereas at a Sessions of Assembly the 17th day of July in the first year of the Dominion of my late dear Father Charles Lord proprietary of Maryland & Avalon &c. Annoque Domini 1716, An Act passed for transferring the Payment of all such Fines and Forfeitures, as shall hereafter arise or happen upon the Breach of any penal Laws of this