

L. H. J. lick Declaration which are so Easy, as Even their duty requir'd, Viz: that they should not Interfere with the Affairs of Government which did not Appertain to them, and not to pervert the Protestants from their faith, and by Consequence from their Allegiance, as is the Constant Practice of the numerous Jesuits here. Woud to God the poor protestants in foreign parts now indeed under persecution on the Score of Religion might be Indulged with the same Lenity the Romanists enjoy here, the papists having Insinuated in Great Britain that they were persecuted in this Province In order to obviate that Calumny, I was obliged at the opening of the last Sessions of Assembly to make them a Publick Challenge (which I now again repeat) to give one Instance wherein any of their Community, were persecuted or even prosecuted by Law for Conscience Sake. The only reply made on their part, was by a
 p. 10 Gentleman who Informed me some of the Principall of the Roman Catholicks had Shewed him a paper that was Intended to be presented me by them, in which, he sayed they seemed to acknowledge they had not been persecuted; But at the Same time it contain'd Some things which Looked Like a Claim of Rights at the mention of this I expressed my Dislike to their Claim, and doubt not my so doing, and the hopes they had of my Sudden Removeall from my Station were the Reasons that paper was never offered me.

Gentlemen.

The pretence of the Papists that Maryland was granted as an asylum to them from the Rigour of the penall Laws in England is a position of theirs has Long amused the world, and perhaps I am the first that has Discovered or at least maintained it was an Imposition, for they Cannot have a better Right than what the Charter admits them to and in my opinion, there is so far from a provision being made therein that the Government should be in their hands in any degree, that there is not even an exception made for the free exercise of their Religion.

It has been affirmed, that Cecilius Lord Baltimore Published a declaration, Inviteing all persons that believed in the name of Jesus to Settle and inhabit this Province promising them all equall Priviledges yet I presume it will be admitted, that Noble Lord Cou'd not give greater powers than he had.

For after all the Priviledges and Immunities mentioned in the Charter towards the Conclusion there is this proviso made viz: " Provided always, that no Interpretation be admitted thereof, by which God's holy and truely Christian Religion,