

or the Allegiance due unto us our heires and Successors may L. H. J. in any wise Suffer any prejudice or diminution."

The Charter was granted by King Charles the first who was a Protestant and Certainly could not intend this Proviso in favour of any other Religion than that of which he was a Zealous Professor. But to make this more evident it is expressly Stipulated in the body of the Charter That all Churches Chapells and Oritories, be Dedicated and Consecrated according to the Law of the Kingdom of England, this so well explains it Self that it wants no Comment, I am only Surprized from what Latent Cause the Papists derive any Priviledges here beyond what the connivance of the Government may Indulge them in. p 11

You may observe from your own Experience and from what I now mention that their pretentions (however Ill grounded) have created great disturbances in this Government and Shoud they gain their points in view may possibly one day prove fatal even to all his Majestyes plantations on the Continent, considering the prodigious Settlements a formidable nation of their own perswasion are Extending on our Backs. These Reflections merit your Precaution, for it is much easier and Safer, to prevent than to cure an Inveterate Distemper, contracted by a long neglected, Ill habit in the Constitution. But that I may not be wanting on my part to apply proper Remedies to these great and growing evils I hope you will approve of my Intention of Sending for some principal persons of the Papists in Order to examine them before this Sessions, what Priviledge they have a Right to that they Enjoy not, and I promise them readily to Concur with you in allowing them whatever is their due without the least Violation. But if this fair Occasion will not induce them to expose their Claims to a Publick Examination, I must own it will Confirm me, as I think it may Reasonably perswade all mankind besides, that they are Cautious it will not bear the Light.

I know no Right of theirs that is Infringed and if any there be let them make it appear (In the name of God) that they may have justice done them, and that this Province may no longer labour under the misapprehensions of their Right or under the Imputation of Severities against them, but if there be none Such, let their Silence be taken as an Acknowledgement that their pretentions are groundless and their exclamations most unreasonable.

I am the more Intent on this Proceeding that I may have the Oppertunity of Answering for you here and hereafter, the better to prevent their Impositions on Strangers to their case p. 12