

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
July 8

Regard to Religion, your Address has given me the first Information; but as the Gentlemen, who recommended him to me as a proper Object of Mercy, are well known to be good Protestants, and have shewn, on all Occasions, the firmest Attachment and Loyalty to his Majesty, as you yourselves can Witness for Two of them, who were some Years thought worthy to be Members of your House, I am willing to hope their Recommendation was owing to a different Motive from that which you have assigned; though as you speak pretty positively with Respect to that Matter, I presume you want not some extraordinary Evidence or Testimony, which I hope will not be kept secret, that I may be better enabled to enquire into the Affair, and that the Gentlemen reflected on may have an Opportunity, should it happen to be false, of vindicating themselves, by disproving it.

The two other Instances of Partiality, as you are pleased to speak, shewed to Popish Delinquents in Prince George's County, are, I am told (for till now I was unacquainted within the Pale of what Church they were numbered, my pardoning one Pye, a Youth, and the Wife of one Bevan, each of them on the Application, and at the earnest Request of many Protestant Gentlemen of their Neighbourhood, among whom were the Parties who had been injured. . . . I remember that many favourable Circumstances were urged in Behalf of the first, and that one Inducement to me to yield to his Friends Sollicitation, was, the Probability and Hopes of his being a useful Witness against one Crawford, a noted Felon, then in Custody in Charles County Goal, about to be tried at the Assizes, where Pye was also recognized to appear as an Evidence against him.

Neither was the Woman represented as a less proper Object of Mercy, and many Arguments were urged to move my compassion to hear: If I recollect her Case, she was married to a very loose and extravagant Man: her Husband had been brought up by and depended upon an Uncle; the Wife went with a forged Letter of Credit, signed with the Name of the Uncle, to Mr. Roundell's Store, and in Virtue of that Deceit, obtained Credit for some Goods: This she did, as there was Reason to suppose, with the Privity or by the Compulsion of a necessitous and base Husband; so had the Prosecution been carried on, the simple Wife might possibly have been punished, while the more guilty Husband escaped with Impunity.

I might now proceed to mention the Constable in Charles County, some Persons of Frederick, with more than twenty others, who have been fortunate enough to be recommended to my Clemency, and have by that Means escaped the Punishments, to which their Offences or Misbehaviour had subjected them; but as they were known Protestants, I need not, I suppose, enumerate them: However, I hope you will no longer think, that the Mercy which has been shewn