

to the three Delinquents above-mentioned, who haply prove to be of the Roman Catholic Persuasion, shews the very great Prevalence or Power of that Faction, or affords any room to think that they have met with Countenance or Encouragement, or have been treated with the least Partiality or Favour.

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

Thus, Gentlemen, for Yours and for your Constituents Information and Satisfaction, I have intimated to you the Reasons and Motives which inclined me to those Acts of Benevolence and Lenity, at which some have taken Offence, not presuming at the Time that I pardoned Offences against the Government, that any Lenity or Compassion exercised towards the People, would be condemned, or excepted against, by their Representatives; neither can I yet believe that your Constituents wish or desire to see you interfering thus far, or prescribing Limits how far a Governor may venture in exercising Clemency; but whatever you or their Opinion or Desire may be, with Respect to that Matter, I will not suffer the undisputed and undoubted Rights of the supreme Magistrate in this Government, to be invaded or infringed on any Pretence whatever: Therefore, I hope, it will not be taken amiss, if I should hereafter exercise that Right of shewing Mercy to such Delinquents as may appear proper Objects, without consulting or advising either with you or them.

What were the Expectations of the People, with Respect to Mr. John Darnal, or the Attorney-General, I know not; but hope they were not unreasonable, and that neither of those Gentlemen have rendered themselves justly obnoxious. I have not had long Experience of them, but, I presume, my Predecessors, who appointed and continued them in Places of Trust, were well satisfied of their being well affected to his Majesty's Person and Government; you know they have conformed to the established Church, and are lawfully qualified to hold any Employment; for my Part, I have nothing to object to their Conduct, and believe they have endeavoured to merit universal Approbation, by duly and impartially executing the Offices which they have many Years enjoyed.

Gentlemen, Whatever fruitless Attempts to gain a Law for your Security against a Popish Faction, more particularly adapted to your Constitution and Circumstances, may have been made, cannot be imputed to me, as no Bill of that Sort has ever been presented to me; and as the Request, with which your Address concludes, relates to an Affair of the greatest Moment and Consequence, I must beg a longer Time to consider of it, and take Advice, before I determine thereon; but you may be assured, that I will, in the mean Time, take such Measures, as Equity; and the Security of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province, point out and require.

Hor.<sup>o</sup> Sharpe.