

L. H. J.
 Liber No. 48
 April 8
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Philip Hammond, Esq; from the Committee of Laws, brings in and delivers to M.^r Speaker the Bill entituled, An Act for granting a Supply of Forty Thousand Pounds for his Majesty's Service And for Striking £34015..16..0 thereof in Bills of Credit and Raising a fund for Sinking the same which was committed for Amendments, and with the Amendments made thereof, was now read the second Time, and will pass; and was sent to the Upper House by Philip Hammond, Esq; and 14 more.

M.^r Murdock, from the Committee appointed to prepare an Address to his Excellency, in Answer to his Message of the 8th of July last, brings in and delivers to M.^r Speaker the following, viz.

To his Excellency Horatio Sharpe, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland.

The humble Address of the House of Delegates.

May it please your Excellency,

The Prorogation of the Assembly, which so immediately ensued upon the Return of your Excellency's Answer to our Address concerning the Growth and Influence of Popery within this Province, precluded us from the Possibility of making such a Reply as we did then and still judge necessary, both to justify our own Conduct, and to elucidate those particular Facts mentioned in the Address, for which we have been so severely taken to Task. Had we been mistaken as to some inconsiderable Circumstances of the Facts laid down to your Excellency, which we do not yet find, there would be no Room to Triumph; for that our Address rested solely upon those Facts, or that we had no other Cause of Complaint but what they administered, is by no Means the Case: Those general Assertions or Insinuations, as your Excellency is pleased to call them, we thought might be sufficient in a Matter of such public Notoriety; but, as a Disquisition more extensive and more explicit seems now to be necessary, we shall comply with the Occasion, and proceed to shew, that the Evil we complained of is, as we have said, very inverterate, and that it hath long called for Redress.

It is too notorious to need any Proof, that Offices of Profit and Trust were generally, if not altogether, in the Possession of Papists, from the first Settlement of this Province down to the Revolution; and as Popery was then Triumphant, the Jesuits did not neglect an Opportunity so favourable to the Ambition and Avarice of their Order: They secured to themselves great Landed Estates upon which they have a Number of Slaves, and many Tenements, which yield them large annual Revenues, erected Mass-Houses, and lived together in a Collegiate Manner; and even since that happy Period, they have not only continued in full Possession of those Estates, but have been permitted to make new Acquisitions by Bequests, and