

apprized of the Criminal's being a Roman Catholic, when I granted him a Reprieve; but really if I had, I do not think I should have ordered him to be executed purely on that Account: For, tho' my own Principles, as well as Duty, will incline and oblige me to countenance and encourage, as much as lies in my Power, the Propagation of the Established Religion; yet, I cannot promise you, that either in administring Justice I will distinguish one Sect from another, or that when a Person appears, or may be represented to me, as a proper Object of Mercy, it shall be my first Enquiry, Whether he is of the same Sentiments in Religion as myself. What has been already said, would, I am inclined to think, convince every impartial Person, that you have not even yet elucidated the First of the Three particular Facts, which were, according to your Account, notorious Instances of the Prevalence and Power of a Popish Faction, and of Partiality shewn them. But, lest you should be displeas'd at my having hesitated to believe what you advanced in your first Address on this Subject, till you should produce some extraordinary Evidence in Support of the Facts, then barely asserted, I shall communicate to you what I know for certain in Relation to this Affair, and am not without Hopes, that you yourselves will, on perusing it, excuse my Incredulity: After Edward Caster, the Offender mentioned so often, had been convicted of Felony, and thereupon condemned, his Wife came to Annapolis, and in the most pathetic Terms implored Mercy for her Husband, and intreated me to pity herself and Family, who, by the Execution of the Sentence pronounced against him, would be reduced to the utmost Distress and Misery. I must acknowledge I could not see and hear the wretched Woman without some Emotion; and, tho' it should be deemed a Fault, I will not deny that I told her, if she could get the Judges, who condemned her Husband, to make any Representation in his Favour, I should, perhaps, be prevailed on to extend my Mercy towards him: Upon this, the poor affectionate Wife hastened to throw herself at the Feet of the Gentlemen, by whose Intercession alone she found her Husband could be saved; and, addressing herself to them severally, as she had done to me, at length prevailed with them to shew that they were not insensible or destitute of Humanity, and to take such a Step as tended to alleviate her Afflictions, and expose themselves (as it has proved) to the Censure of some who were pleased to take Offence thereat. As M.^r Key seems to be more particularly hinted at in your Address than the other Gentlemen, I must do him the Justice to observe to you, that he was the last that signed the Petition, and moreover, wrote to me, desiring the Criminal might receive no Benefit therefrom, unless he should immediately depart the Province, and never return again; which Condition, I presume, was accordingly complied with.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
April 24