

An Act for preventing the Importation of German and French Papists, and Popish Priests and Jesuits, into this Province; and of Irish Papists by Way of Pennsylvania, or the Government of New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex, on Dclawarc.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
March 21

Whereas it appears to this General Assembly, that many German and French Papists, and several Popish Priests, and Jesuits, have been lately imported into this Province, who have immediately resorted to the Western Frontiers thereof, and there settled for the Convenience of taking up vacant Lands, which are at this Time scarcely elsewhere to be had; that from their Vicinity to the Fortifications which the French have lately presumed to erect on the River Ohio, it is too probable they will not only give his Majesty's Enemies constant secret Intelligence of the Situation of Affairs within this Province, and privately assist them all in their Power, but in Case of an Attack upon this Part of his Majesty's Dominions, would doubtless turn their Force, in Conjunction with the French and their savage Allies, against his loyal Protestant Subjects.

And whereas the insatiable Desire of universal Conversion to their own religious Opinions, calculated for the Establishment and Support of Tyranny and Slavery, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, must excite the constant unwearied Endeavours of the said Popish Priests, and Jesuits, to accomplish their most impious Designs; all which might endanger the Subversion of the happy Constitution of the Government of this Province, and the Loss of the Liberties and Properties of the good Protestant People thereof:

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That all Masters of Ships and Vessels, and Others, importing German or French Passengers, or Servants, into this Province, shall bring their Vessels off, and make their Entry, at the Port and City of Annapolis, and not elsewhere, and shall, at the Time of such Entry, pay unto the Naval-Officer of the said Port, for the Time being, the Sum of Five Pounds Current Money, per Poll, for every German or French Papist (Priests excepted), and Two hundred Pounds for every Popish Priest, or Jesuit, on Penalty and Forfeiture of Twenty Pounds Current Money, for every German or French Papist (Priests excepted), and Four hundred Pounds for every such Priest, or Jesuit, as aforesaid, that shall be by him or them concealed, at the Time of his or their Entry, as aforesaid, One half of the said Fines to be applied to the replacing the Sum of Six thousand Pounds, granted for his Majesty's Service, on the present intended Expedition against the French, and their Allies on this Continent, by an Act entituled, An Act for his Majesty's Service, and the other half thereof to the Informer, or him or them that shall

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