

U. H. J. proposed as a Step to your present attempt, you would not have the
 Liber No. 35 Opportunity of mentioning it now: We could put you in Mind
 May 4 that it is not long since the Lower House shewed no Disposition to
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We observed in our Message “ that the first Settlement of this Province was made by Roman Catholics who had been driven from their native Country by the Severity of it’s Laws, & that after the Services these People had done in extending the Dominion of the Crown and had been promised and allowed an Asylum here, an Act of the Legislature which would have the Effect of banishing their Posterity when it can’t be pretended that it is necessary such an extreme Measure should take Place, could not be defended upon any Principle of Justice or Policy.”

You have been pleased to remark upon this Passage of our Message that you have not been able to discover any Thing in History or otherwise to justify or countenance our Assertion that the Papists were promised and allowed an Asylum here. “ it may be so, but it is not our Fault that you have not, and to be plain with you we should have been restrained from telling you what you have been pleased to acknowledge by the Apprehension of it’s giving Offence, however as you have desired to have this Matter explained to you and we flatter ourselves it may have some Effect, we shall undertake to do it in as full a Manner as the Shortness of the Time will admit.

This Province was granted by Charter to Cecilius Lord Baltimore the 20th of June 1633: [sic; 1632] who was then a Roman Catholic. the Charter recites that Lord Baltimore *Patris inhærens vestigiis laudabile et pio Christianæ Religionis pariter et Imperii nostri Territoriæ dilitandi studio flagrans Licentiam suppluaverit &c* ”

The granting Clause begins thus “ *Sciatis igitur quod nos pium et nobile Presatorum Baronum de Baltimore propositium et studium Regis Favore prosequentes concedimus &c* ”

After the Charter was thus granted to Lord Baltimore who was then a Roman Catholic his Lordship emitted his Proclamation to encourage the Settlement of his Province promising therein among other Things Liberty of Conscience and an equal Exercise of Religion to every Denomination of Christians who would transport themselves to and reside in his Province and that he would procure a Law to be passed for that Purpose. afterwards, the first or second Assembly that met after the first Colonists arrived here some Time in the Year 1638 a perpetual Law passed in pursuance of his Lordship’s Promise, and indeed such a Law was easily obtained from those who were the first Settlers. this Act was confirmed in 1640: and again in 1650. By this Act it was Enacted “ that whatsoever Person or Persons should upon any Occasion of Offence or otherwise in a reproachful manner or any way declare call, or denominate any Person or Persons, inhabiting or residing, trading,

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