

under a prosecution for the supposed murder of a negro has determined his parishioners, universally, not to hear him; and that the growth of popery and superstition, are, as may be expected, attendant consequences of such remiss and immoral conduct, but this information having been given so late, your committee could not make a full enquiry and examination into the matter; but humbly conceive it highly proper and necessary, that there should be strict enquiry into the causes of the apparent decay of the established religion, and the growth of popery and superstition, not only in that parish, but the growth of popery and superstition, and an increase of sects, dissenting from the established church in many other parts of this province. All which is humbly submitted to the consideration of your honorable house

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 5a  
June 22

Sign'd by order Edward Ford clk

Which is read the first & second time by especial order, and concurred with

M.<sup>r</sup> Johnson brings in and delivers to M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker the following address p. 543

To his excellency Horatio Sharpe Esquire,  
Governor of Maryland

May it please your excellency

In answer to your message of the sixteenth, we are not surprised at the grievous complaints of contractors for the transportation of felons, against the quarantine law, at their denial of notorious facts, or suppression of a considerable circumstance, the profitable price at which they generally sell the convicts, nor that they should, when actuated solely by sordid views, esteem the health of the inhabitants light in the scale, against a grain of their profit: But we are surprised at imaginary importance of these people, as well as at the ingratitude of their attempt to interest the government at home, against a country, from which they have extracted so much wealth, and at the expence of so many lives.

We think the quarantine law wants amendment; and are apprehensive, that the security of oaths, alone, is not sufficient to effect the salutary purpose of preventing a continuance of that cruelty, so long, and so fatally exercised, of distributing, with impunity, the jail-fever, and other infectious disorders. In compassion also to the infected, a place for their reception is desirable, and something from the profits of that trade would justly come into contribution; and we would willingly now go into a full enquiry and consideration of this subject, but the impatience, and indeed necessity, of most of our members, to return home, and secure their approaching harvest, has obliged us to refer the consideration of this, as well as many other matters of consequence to the next session of assembly