

declare, that the Party named in that Bill, did not apply himself to the Upper-House, where, if he had Cause, he might have been Relieved, nor to me as *Governour*, who had a Negative on that Bill, tho' there was some time between passing it in both Houses, and my fixing the Seal and Assenting to it as an Act.

I shall send down to your House the Opinion of Council Learned in the Laws of *Great Britain*, on the Parties Suspension from his Practice by that Act; The Cases as they are stated to the Lawyers, and their Sentiment on them, are Worthy your Observation. But I must remark to you, should this Party, or Others, be suffered to Insult the Courts, as he has so often done, with Impunity, It would destroy the very Essence and being of all Authority and Power amongst you, which are Principally Constituted to pull down and punish the Haughty and the Bad, and to Support and Cherish the Humble and the Good: I do therefore Recommend it to you, to make such Provision, as may support the Magistrates in the Administration of Justice, which may not be liable to the former Exception: and this you will find agreeable to their Lordship's Opinions and Inclination.

*Gentlemen*, of the Upper and Lower-Houses;

I Have the Honour to Receive late Letters from their Lordships, signifying their Concern and Resentments for the Indiscreet and Malicious Proceedings of some of the Roman Catholicks against me, which gives me great Satisfaction: so that, depending on their Lordships favour and Protection, it is unwillingly I again name that Community in a Publick Manner, were it not to disabuse those Persons whom they have unjustly prepossessed against Me, by Urging that the Roman Catholicks are under a Persecution in *Maryland*, which in this Place is so well known to be a Notorious Untruth, that it scarcely deserves a Reply. But their Clamours on this Score, having reached *Great Britain*, with very Aggravating Circumstances, I am laid under a Necessity of Justifying my Character from this Barbarous Imputation, in this open way to the World, by Declaring I never had other Views or Intentions against the Roman Catholicks, but to prevent their Employing of Officers, or of having any Influence, either Publicly or Privately, on the Administration of this Government: and this I looked upon as my indispensable duty as a *Governour*, and I know no Cause to alter my Sentiments, when in a private Capacity, and am always ready when Required to give an Account of my Conduct and Stewardship to my Superiours.

As for the Unreasonable Cry of Persecution I do now in the face of the Country, challenge and defie the *Roman Catholicks*, or their Adherents to shew one Instance wherein they, or any of them, have been persecuted for Conscience sake, or even prosecuted by Law on that account; And this I require may be made as Publick as Possible, to the end, that all that are Concerned may have due Notice of it, both on my own Account, and for the Justification of the Magistracy of this Province, from this false Assertion of Violence and Inclemency: I am now Convinced there are some of the Romish Perswasion (and to their Praise I speak it) who have not Joyned with the Majority of that People in their late Ambitious Pretensions: Yet whatever Provocations these last have given, I shall now make them no other Return, but to Compassionate their Mistakes, and to Conjure them for their Own Peace to live Quietly and Contentedly in their never yet disturbed Habitations, under the Protection of this *Protestant Government* without intermeddling with the Ministerial Part