

and either commit them to the Sheriff's custody or Oblige them to give good security for their appearance at the next Assizes and in the mean time to Advise your Excellency thereof, but if upon Examination had it should appear to us that such Rumours or Reports tending so much to the disquiet of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province are intirely Groundless and without foundation We should then bind over to the next Assizes as disturbers of the Publick Peace, whoever should appear to be the Authors of such Rumours or to have industriously propagated such falsehoods Also that it has been intimated that some Roman Catholic Priests of this Province have been lately absent from their usual Places of Residence a considerable time desiring us to enquire if any Priest from our County has been so absent and if it should by the affidavit of any Evidence appear to us to have been the case We should Summon such Priest before us and if he should not give a very Satisfactory Account of himself and where he has been during his absence from home We should commit him to the Sheriff's custody unless he should give good security for his immediate appearance before your Excellency & Honours whom we were instantly to Advise what we had done respecting such Priest and inform you of whatever has come to our knowledge concerning his absence or Misbehaviour

In Obedience to the Commands of your Excellency & Honours We beg leave to Represent that We know not of any Tumultuous Meetings or Caballings amongst the Negroes in our County more than usual; for the Constables of the several hundreds are directed by an Act of Assembly to prevent and suppress the same for which they have an allowance every November and we have always been particularly careful in satisfying ourselves that the several Constables have discharged that part of their Duty

We also beg leave to Represent that We do not know in our County of any Person or Persons of the Roman Catholic persuasion having misbehaved themselves in any manner so as to give any Grounds whatever to any of his Majesty's Loyal Subjects to fear an Insurrection nor do We know of any Roman Catholic Priests who are residents in our County nor has any Information been made by any Person whatever to our Court nor come to our knowledge as private Men relating to the foregoing Particulars We are directed to enquire into.

Therefore We beg leave to Represent to your Excellency and Honours that in our County there does not appear to be the least foundation for such Rumours and Reports as tend so much to the Disquiet of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province And we wish the Authors of such Rumours and falsehoods Punished as Disturbers of the Publick Peace

We are

Your Excellency and Honours Most Obedient Son &c
 Mount, Newfields, Wm Chapman, Tho Jennings
 Henry Hall, Jr, J. J. Jones, Saml Thomas, Ephraim Hobbs

No. 77th 1755

Sir

The Justices of Kent County Court having received a letter from you by direction of the Governor and Council Informing them that Reports had been spread that in this County had been tumultuous Meetings & Caballings of Negroes, that the Roman Catholics had misbehaved and that some of