

May it please His Excellency the Governor & Council.

This Acknowledges the Receipt of both your Letters, as well that of the 15<sup>th</sup> of August as the other of October the 20<sup>th</sup> and We beg leave to assure your Excellency and Honours that nothing prevented our giving an answer to you first but that We Imagined as those things Recommended by your Excellency and Honours for our enquiry, being intirely false and Groundless, so We apprehended that no further Notice was necessary; We therefore humbly hope that this will sufficiently excuse and apologise for our not doing it Sooner. We beg leave to assure your Excellency and Honours, that there are not the least Grounds that We know of to Suspect either Negroes or Papists of any ill designs against the Government, and indeed we conceive it almost needless to mention the latter as his Excellency has their Numbers Returned to him taken by the several Constables in the County by which it will appear that they are so inconsiderable as to fear nothing from them and to do Justice to the few amongst us We have not observed them to behave otherwise than good and dutiful Subjects As to the Roman Catholic Priests mentioned by your Excellency and Honours leaving their Habitation We beg leave to return for answer that We dont know, nor never heard of any of them residing in this County We also conceive that the Rumours and Reports mentioned by your Excellency and Honours, tending to the disquiet of his Majestys Subjects are intirely false and Groundless, but have not yet discovered the Authors of them, when ever we do, We assure your Excellency and Honours that We will Comply with every part of your Instructions, as well in relation to these, as all others concerning the Publick Quiet, We are with all due regard,

Your Excellency's & Honours most Obedient Humble Servants  
Nath Wickham, Wm Griffith, Jn. Rawlins, Jos. Wood  
David Lynn Jos. Smith - Charles Jones  
Justices of Frederick County

21<sup>st</sup> November 1755.

Pursuant to the Governor and Councils Directions to the Justices of Somerset County Court of the fifteenth of August last they the said Justices called the several Constables of the several hundreds in the County and before them in Court Judicially sitting and gave in charge to the said Constables that by all ways and means they should suppress the tumultuous Meetings and Caballings of Negroes in the several Hundreds if any. Likewise the said Justices made strict inquiry into the behaviour of those Persons of the Roman Catholic persuasion Residing in the County of Somerset and the said Justices found upon Examination that there has not been any Misbehaviour by any of them or if any of them has misbehaved themselves either in action or speaking disrespectful words of the Present Establishment it has not yet come to the knowledge of the said Justices. Likewise the said Justices made strict inquiry whether there was any Roman Catholic Priests that Resided in the County of Somerset & whether they have been absent from their several Places of Abode, but the said Justices find upon Examination that there is not any Romish Priest that has any Place of Residence within the County of Somerset.

By Order of Somerset County Court  
Thomas Hayward J. C. C.

May it please your Excellency & Honours.

By Order of the Justices of Dorchester County in answer to your Letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> October, I am to acquaint you that upon inquiry they have not heard of any tumultuous Meetings of Negroes nor of the Misbehaviour of any Roman Catholics, nor that ever a Romish Priest resided in this County neither do they know that any Person or Persons within the same have been Authors of such Reports as your Letters mention. I am

May it please your Excellency & Honours  
Most Obedient & Humble Servant  
Jn. Baile Clk D.C.

Dorchester County  
November 20<sup>th</sup> 1755.