

Province great Offence & Uneasiness. I think it my Duty in Justice  
myself I can do no less than to assure Your Ex<sup>ty</sup> that since I have  
had the Honour to bear Your Commission, Nothing has been farther from  
my Inclination, than to countenance or give Encouragement to promote  
of that Persuasion nor has there, to my Knowledge, been any given there  
by any Persons in Authority under me, but on the contrary extraordinary  
Burthens have been lately laid on them, particularly by an Act of Your  
Ex<sup>ty</sup> that was made in May 1706 whereby all Landholders of the Romish  
Faith are obliged, to pay by Way of Land Tax, twice as much as the  
Rest of Your Ex<sup>ty</sup>s Tenants who are Protestants. It might perhaps  
be unknown if not to the Authors at least to some of the Propagators of  
the abovementioned Report that the People who first settled in this Pro-  
vince were for the most part Roman Catholics & that altho every  
other Sect was tolerated a Majority of the Inhabitants continued Pa-  
pists till the Revolution soon after which Event an Act was made here  
for the Support of a Clergyman of the Church of England in every Parish,  
which is still in force & the Papists as well as Protestants are thereby  
obliged to pay annually very considerable Sums for that purpose. Other  
Acts of Assembly were made afterwards in the Reign of Her Majesty Queen  
Anne subjecting all Popish Priests that should be discovered here, to all  
the Penalties to which such Priests would be liable in England, but Her  
Majesty was pleased to disapprove thereof & to order that no Popish Bishop  
or Priest or Jesuit should be prosecuted or indicted for exercising his  
Function in any private Family within this Province: But notwithstanding  
that Her Majesty thought fit to allow the Papists in Maryland the free  
Exercise of their Religion, they were not permitted to sit in either House of  
Assembly, to Vote at the Election of Representatives to act as Magistrates  
to enjoy any Place of publick Trust or Profit, nor have they been since