

suffered, & to this I presume it must be principally attributed, that altho' half the Province were Roman Catholics about 60 Years ago the People of that Religion do not at present make a Thirtieth Part of the Inhabitants as I find by the Returns of the Sheriffs & Constables who have in my Obedience to my Order made the most strict Enquiry in their respective Districts & the Rolls returned by the Collectors of the Land Tax shew that they are not possest of a Twelfth Part of the Land which is held under Your Ldp as Proprietary of Maryland.

That your Ldp may not be at a Loss to account for their having many Enemies ready to propagate Stories to their Disadvantage I must intreat your Patience while I inform you that some Time before your Ldp was pleased to appoint me your Lieut Governor one Mr Carr a Roman Catholic died here & left a considerable Estate to his two Sons having appointed two of his Relations their Guardians & Executors of his last Will & Testament. Both these Gent^{rs} were at that time of the same Religion as the Testator but after a while one of them declared himself a Protestant & having qualified himself according to Law was chosen by the People of this County to represent them in the Lower House of Assembly. A Difference or Quarrell arising between the Executors concerning the Administration, He that had not renounced his Religion published a Piece by Way of Advertisement which reflected much on the Conduct & Character of the other who had Address enough to persuade the House of Assembly which was then sitting to take Notice thereof & to punish the Author for violating their Privilege by libelling as they said one of their Members. Some Roman Catholics Friends of the Gentleman who was thus treated, having taken the Liberty to speak disrespectfully of the Assembly for ~~his~~ ^{the} ~~Assembly~~ for such their proceeding the Lower House immediately