

vented it by Resolving that the Papists were bad Members of the
Community & unworthy of the Protection & Indulgence which had been
given them. After this their Enemies & many were made such by
Envy or the hopes of reaping some Advantage from a Persecution of
the Papists were continually representing them as a very dangerous
People's Enemies to His Majesty & their Country, nor had this Spirit
of Enmity subsided when I arrived in the Province. Immediately
after the Defeat of General Braddock it was given out that several
Roman Catholics had showed Signs of Satisfaction & Joy at that
unhappy Event & that One of their Priests had been seen on the Tru-
tiers in the Dress of an Officer: To alarm the People the more, it
was at the same time rumoured that the Negroes had been Cabal-
ling in many Parts of the Country, say Mr Chace, Rector of St
Paul's Parish in Baltimore County scrupled not to intimate from
the Pulpit to his Congregation that the State or Situation of the
Protestants in this Province was at that time very little different
from that of the Protestants in Ireland at the Eve of the Irish
Mapaore. In order to learn whether the Behaviour of the Papists or of
any Negroes had given reason or afforded Room for such Reports I com-
mited the Gent^l of the Council & by their Advice Circular Letters were
sent to the Justices of the Peace in the several Parts of the Province
whereby they were directed to enquire whether the Roman Catholics in
their respective Counties had misbehaved or whether there was any Founda-
tion for the Reports which had been spread concerning them which
had ^{made} many of his Majesty's good Subjects in the Province very uneasy.
The Letters which I shall herewith transmit to your Sir in a Packet
marked N^o 1, will shew that None of the County Courts could upon