

The strictest Enquiry find that any of the Papists had behaved
or expressed themselves in an unbecoming manner, tho' indeed the Justice
of Prince Georges County (who it seems had taken extraordinary
Pains to make Discoveries but in vain) were too much prejudiced to
acquit them or at least to acquit their Priests of having ill Designs
against the Government. When the Assembly met in April following
the Lower House incited by two or three Gentlemen whose Interest &
popularity were thereby promoted presented an Address to me which
was calculated to inflame the People still more against the Papists
to make 'em believe that they or a few of them at least had receiv'd
extraordinary Favours from myself. I cannot help thinking that
Your Ldp was thoroughly satisfied by the Answer I gave the Gent^{rs}
the 2^d of April 1736 which is printed in their Journal that the Allegations
or Insinuations contained in their Address were false & groundless & indeed
I am persuaded that if they had not been convinced thereof & been sensible
that they had been imposed on they would not have failed to make a
Reply. During the same Session the Gent^{rs} of the Upper House thought
proper to frame a Bill for preventing the Growth of Popery within
this Province; by which the Priests were to be rendered incapable of
holding any Lands, to be obliged to register their Names & give large
Security for their good Behaviour, forbid to make a Proselyte under
pain of the Penalty for High Treason, & it was to have been Enacted by
the said Bill that no Person who should hereafter be educated at any
foreign popish Seminary could be qualified to inherit any Estate
or to hold Lands within this Province. There were many other Restraints
to be laid on them by this Bill as Your Ldp may see if You shall be
pleased to peruse the Copy of it which You will herewith receive, but