

and important affairs by so long an address did we not lie under a necessity of saying something in justification of our proceedings in this present Session of Assembly, we blush to acquaint y^r. High^{ness} of your Gracious endeavours that way have not met with y^r. regard y^r. was due to so noble and generous an undertaking and we must entreat y^r. High^{ness} to believe that it is with regret and very unwillingly that we are forced to charge ourselves with the defence of such things as we said to be Casped at already and will in all probability become the Subject Matter of Complaint.

The Roman Catholics ever since the Restoration of the Late Lord Battenour to this Government have been very active and busy in projecting schemes for introducing papists into offices and from thence as we may reasonably conjecture had they not been prevented would have asserted their pretended claim of Right to share in y^r. Publick admⁿ of the affairs of Government.

But the opposition they met withal in the prosecution of this Designe and the frequent hints and notices of their being Roman Catholics given them by his Gr^{ace} with design to keep them quiet put them upon getting sundry eminent Lawyers opinions & concerning the suspension of an act of Assembly made anno 1704 Intituled an act to prevent the Growth of Popery w^{ch} in this Province which suspension was continued and confirmed by one other act of Assembly made anno 1706 which was not to determine untill her late Majesty Queen Ann's Royall will and pleasure should be signified therefore.

The Gentlemen of the Romish Communion believing themselves secure in those learned Councils opinions upon our suspending act, neither regarded y^r. Notices given them, nor did they observe such measures as a people under their circumstances should have kept altho' his Gr^{ace} often times informed that her late Majesty Queen Ann's Royall will and pleasure had been signified to him in her Royall Instructions Eighty Years after the passing that suspending act wherein the papists were expressly excepted out of the Indulgence her Majesty was Graciously pleased to extend unto all other persuasions here.

Thus have the Roman Catholics made use of an act of Indulgence which had no other then a charitable Tenderness in regard to their Consciences & manner of Worship as a Barrier to all manner of proceedings in Governmt ag^t them and made slight of the late Queens Instructions as not concerned therein, altho' your High^{ness} had given them in charge unto y^r. Lieut. Governour.