

a Gentleman who informed me some of the principles of the Roman Catholics had shewed him a paper that was intended to be presented me by them, in which he said they seemed to acknowledge they had not been persecuted; but at the same time it contained some things which looked like a claim of right, at the mention of that I expressed my dislike to their claim; and doubt not my so doing, and the hopes they had of my sudden removal from my station, were the reasons that paper was never offered me,

Gentlemen

The pretence of the papists that (Maryland was granted as an exemption to them from the rigour of the penal Laws in England) is a position of theirs has long been known to the world and perhaps I am the first that has discovered or at least maintained it was an imposition for they cannot have a better Right than what the Charters admit them to, and in my opinion there is no fear from a provision being made therein that the Government should be in their hands in any degree that there is not even an Exception made for the free exercise of their Religion.

It has been affirmed, that Cecilus Lord Baltimore Published a Declaration, inviting all persons that believed in the Name of Jesus, to settle and inhabit this province promising them all equal privileges, yet I presume it will be admitted, that a Noble Lord could not give greater power than he had.

For after all the privileges, Immunities mentioned in the Charters towards the Conclusion there is this proviso made viz. -

"Provided always, that no interpretation be admitted thereof, by which Gods holy and true Christian Religion, or the allegiance due, unto our heads and Successors may in any wayes suffer any prejudice or

The Charter was granted by King Charles the first who was a protestant and certainly could not intend this proviso in favour of any other Religion than that of which he was a zealous Professor.

But to make this more evident it is expressly stipulated in the body of the Charter that all Churches, Chapells and Oratories be dedicated and consecrated according to the Law, of the Kingdom of England, this so well explains it self that it wants no comment, I am only surpris'd from what latent Cause the papists derive any privileges here beyond what the connivance of the Government may indulge them in.

You may observe from your own experience and from what I now mention that their pretensions (however ill grounded) have created great disturbances in this Government and should