

THOMAS READER, of Saint Mary's County, Gentleman, aged forty one Years, or thereabout, being sworn on the holy Evangelists of almighty God, deposeth and saith, that he had an Overseer who was a professed Roman Catholic, who, having been at Mafs, told this Deponent, when he came home, that the Priest had now secured the Protestants that married Roman Catholic Women, by an Oath, before he would marry them, (only making them promise before, which promise was often broke), that he saw and heard Richard Ellis, a Priest, marry a certain *Thomas Radford*, a Protestant, to *Elisabeth Joseph* a Roman Catholic, and before he would marry him, made him take an Oath, to abide and practice the Roman Catholic Faith himself, and also to bring his Children, if he had any, up in the same Religion and Faith, and in a few Days after, the said Overseer came from Mafs again, and said he saw the said *Ellis* administer an Oath, and marry a certain *Gerrard Jordan*, a Protestant, to *Mildred Mahony*, a Catholic, in the same Manner; which Facts were done about the Month of March was twelve Months.

That a certain *John Lockwood*, who has been at work for *Mr. Molyneux*, a Priest, in *Charles County*, in the Time of the late Rebellion, the best Part of a Summer Season, (which *Lockwood* was a Tenant to this Deponent, when he came home, told this Deponent, that *Mr. Molyneux* had been from home a long Time and brought with him at his Return, two Strangers, who could not speak *English*, and that on this Deponent his telling of him one *Jones*, a Roman Catholic, he said he saw five Strangers which *Mr. Molyneux* brought in of *Saint Mary's County*, and bought them Horses; that the said *Jones* said, he enquired what they were, at the Priest's, who answered they were *Wappalow* Priests, but the said *Jones* said they were no more Priests than he was, being too gay dressed. That this Deponent's Negroes are perverted and turn'd Roman Catholics unbeknown to him, notwithstanding he has brought the most of them up, from Children, in the Protestant Religion, by teaching them their Prayers, and sending them to the Protestant Church, with his Family; an Instance of which happened lately in his Family, and occasioned a Discovery, viz. One of his Negroes fell sick, and it was thought he would die, and upon this Deponent's asking him if he should send for a Clergyman of the Church of *England*, the Negro said no, for he would have the Priest; that in a few Days after, Priest *Ellis* wrote to this Deponent to know if he would permit him to visit the Negro.

That this Deponent, for several Years past, has been obliged to board his Children abroad for Education, there being no good Roman Schoolmasters near him; and this Deponent further saith, that in his Neighbourhood, the Papists are more numerous than the Protestants, and that there are several Popish Chapels wherein Mass is performed constantly; that lately one *Thomas Bridgid*, a Protestant, married a Papist, in said County, that he the said *Bridgid*, and his Mother, told him, that since he had been married the Papists had often endeavoured to turn him to the Popish Religion, by telling him that all Protestants were damned; that one *Henry Howe* a Papist, told him, the said *Bridgid's* Wife, that he hoped she would not become a Protestant, for she knew, as well as he did, that they were all lost.

That he the said *Bridgid* was going to carry his Child, to the Protestant Church, to be christened, and the said *Howe* being at his House at the same Time, he desired *Howe* to lend him his Horse to go to Church; that *Howe* answered, he had rather his Horse should go to Hell, than Parson *Brown* could not Christen his Child because he was a Heretic, for that a Parson had christened a Sister of his once, but the Priest was obliged to Christen her after, that the Father of the said *Howe* had always lived, and died, in the Protestant Religion; and further saith not.

THOMAS READER.

October 20, 1753.

Taken before me, ROBERT JENCKINS HENRY.

S I R,

Your Negro *Richard*, is in a very dangerous Condition, and desires my Assistance to prepare him for his last End, I desire the Favour of your Permission for me to visit him: Sir, I shall wait your Pleasure at *Mr. Mills's*.
Excuse, Sir, the Paper.
RICHARD ELLIS.

JAMES WARWICK, of Saint Mary's County, Planter, aged sixty five Years, or thereabouts, being sworn on the holy Evangelists of almighty God, deposeth and saith, That his Wife, *Elizabeth Warwick*, who is a Papist, told him, That *Gerrard Jordan*, a Protestant, was married to the Widow *Mildred Mahony*, who was a Papist, and that on the Day of Marriage, before the Solemnization thereof, at a Popish Chapel, in the said County, *Richard Ellis*, a Jesuit, or Popish Priest, who officiated there, obliged the said *Jordan* to swear, on a Book which he knifed, that he should renounce all Religion but the Popish Religion, and that he should bring up all his Children in that Persuasion, and that although the Predecessors of the said *Jordan*, known to the said *Warwick*, were Protestants; that he understands, and believes, that the said *Jordan* has never been at the Church of *England*, or held any Communion with that Church since, and goes constantly to *Mafs*, as other Papists do.

And the said *Warwick* further saith, That all the Servants, though Protestants, bought by the Papists, are perverted by the Jesuits, and Papists, in the said County; and believes, that for the most Part, there are three
Papists