

the Probability and Hopes of his being a useful Witness against one *Crowley*, a noted Felon, then in Custody in *Charles County Goal*, about to be tried at the Assizes, where *Pre* was also recognized to appear as an Evidence against him.

Neither was the Woman represented as a less proper Object of Mercy, and many Arguments were urged to move my Compassion to her: If I recollect her Case, she was married to a very loose and extravagant Man; her Husband had been brought up by and depended upon an Uncle; the Wife went with a forged Letter of Credit, signed with the Name of the Uncle, to *Mr. Rowdell's Store*, and in Virtue of that Deceit, obtained Credit for some Goods: This she did, as there was Reason to suppose, with the Privity or by the Compulsion of a necessitous and base Husband; so had the Prosecution been carried on, the simple Wife might possibly have been punished, while the more guilty Husband escaped with Impunity.

I might now proceed to mention the Constable in *Charles County*, some Persons of *Frederick*, with more than twenty others, who have been fortunate enough to be recommended to my Clemency, and have by that Means escaped the Punishments, to which their Offences or Misbehaviour had subjected them; but as they were known Protestants, I need not, I suppose, enumerate them: However, I hope you will no longer think, that the Mercy which has been shewn to the three Delinquents above-mentioned, who haply prove to be of the Roman Catholic Persuasion, shews the very great Prevalence or Power of that Faction, or affords any room to think that they have met with Countenance or Encouragement, or have been treated with the least Partiality or Favour.

Thus, Gentlemen, for Yours and for your Constituents Information and Satisfaction, I have intimated to you the Reasons and Motives which inclined me to those Acts of Benevolence and Lenity, at which some have taken Offence, not presuming at the Time that I pardoned Offences against the Government, that any Lenity or Compassion exercised towards the People, would be condemned, or excepted against, by their Representatives; neither can I yet believe that your Constituents wish or desire to see you interfering thus far, or prescribing Limits how far a Governor may venture in exercising Clemency: But whatever your or their Opinion or Desire may be, with Respect to that Matter, I will not suffer the undisputed and undoubted Right of the supreme Magistrate in this Government, to be invaded or infringed on any Pretence whatever: Therefore, I hope, it will not be taken amiss, if I should hereafter exercise that Right of shewing Mercy to such Delinquents as may appear proper Objects, without consulting or advising either with you or them.

What were the Expectations of the People, with Respect to *Mr. John Danforth*, of the Attorney-General, I know not; but hope they were not unreasonable, and that neither of those Gentlemen have rendered themselves justly obnoxious. I have not had long Experience of them, but, I presume, my Predecessors, who appointed and continued them in Places of Trust, were well satisfied of their being well affected to his Majesty's Person and Government; you know they have conformed to the established Church, and are lawfully qualified to hold any Employment; for my Part, I have nothing to object to their Conduct, and believe they have endeavoured to merit universal Approbation, by duly and impartially executing the Offices which they have many Years enjoyed.

Gentlemen, Whatever fruitless Attempts to gain a Law for your Security against a Popish Faction, more particularly adapted to your Constitution and Circumstances, may have been made, cannot be imputed to me, as no Bill of that Sort has ever been presented to me; and as the Request, with which your Address concludes, relates to an Affair of the greatest Moment and Consequence, I must beg a longer Time to consider of it, and take Advice, before I determine thereon; but you may be assured, that I will, in the mean Time, take such Measures, as Equity, and the Security of his Majesty's Subjects in this Province, point out and require.

HOR^o. SHARPE.

Col. *Hammond*, from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker, the Bill entituled, *An Act to prevent any Person or Persons within this Province, from exporting Provisions of any Kind, Ammunition or Warlike Stores, for the Time therein mentioned*, indorsed, "By the Upper House of Assembly, &c." [See the Indorsements on Page 43.]

June Session, 1755.

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