

To his Excellency HORATIO SHARPE, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of MARYLAND.

The humble ADDRESS of the House of DELEGATES.

May it please your Excellency,

THE Prorogation of the Assembly, which so immediately ensued upon the Return of your Excellency's Answer to our Address concerning the Growth and Influence of Popery within this Province, precluded us from the Possibility of making such a Reply as we did then and still judge necessary, both to justify our own Conduct, and to elucidate those particular Facts mentioned in the Address, for which we have been so severely taken to Task. Had we been mistaken as to some inconsiderable Circumstances of the Facts laid down to your Excellency, which we do not yet find, there would be no Room to Triumph; for that our Address rested solely upon those Facts, or that we had no other Cause of Complaint but what they administered, is by no Means the Case: Those general Assertions or Insinuations, as your Excellency is pleased to call them, we thought might be sufficient in a Matter of such public Notoriety; but, as a Disquisition more extensive and more explicit seems now to be necessary, we shall comply with the Occasion, and proceed to shew, that the Evil we complained of is, as we have said, very inveterate, and that it hath long called for Redress.

It is too notorious to need any Proof, that Offices of Profit and Trust were generally, if not altogether, in the Possession of Papists, from the first Settlement of this Province down to the Revolution; and as Popery was then Triumphant, the Jesuits did not neglect an Opportunity so favourable to the Ambition and Avarice of their Order: They secured to themselves great Landed Estates (upon which they have a Number of Slaves, and many Tenements, which yield them large annual Revenues), erected Mass-Houses, and lived together in a Collegiate Manner; and even since that happy Period, they have not only continued in full Possession of those Estates, but have been permitted to make new Acquisitions by Bequests, and otherwise, to increase their Wealth by Traffic, to exercise their Functions, and to propagate their dangerous Tenets with Impunity: That such extraordinary Countenance should be given to Popery before the Revolution, and indeed after, while the Proprietors themselves were Papists, is not greatly to be wondered at; but we own, it is Matter of Astonishment to us, that the known Enemies of our Constitution should still meet with the same Indulgence, whilst we have every Thing to fear from their open Attempts, or secret Machinations. To confirm the Truth of the last Assertion, we will produce such Testimony as will scarce be disputed with us, and that is an Extract from a Proclamation of the late Governor *Bladen* in the Year Seventeen Hundred and Forty-six, in the Words following: "Whereas I have received certain Information that several Jesuits and other Popish Priests, and their Emissaries, have presumed of late, especially since the late unnatural Rebellion broke out in *Scotland*, to seduce and pervert many of his Majesty's Protestant Subjects from their Religion, and to alienate their Affections from his Majesty's Royal Person and Government, altho' such Practices are High Treason, not only in the Priests and their Emissaries, who shall seduce and pervert, but also in all those who shall be seduced and perverted; I have therefore thought fit, with the Advice of his Lordship's Council of State, to issue this my Proclamation, to charge all Jesuits and other Popish Priests, and their Emissaries, to forbear such traitorous Practices, and to assure such of them as shall dare hereafter to offend, that they shall be prosecuted according to Law." This Extract from the Proclamation will not only serve the Purpose for which it is adduced, to prove the traitorous Practices of the Jesuits and their Adherents, but it will likewise evince that they have been treated with extraordinary Lenity and Tenderness. Another Instance of the evil Practices of the Papists, or at least of the strong Suspicions that were entertained of them, we shall produce, perhaps, scarce less authentic than the former: In the Year Seventeen hundred and sixteen, so generally were the Protestants persuaded that Contributions were made by the Papists, and some of their Party sent to *England* with a Design to prejudice the Protestant Government and Interest in *Maryland*, that it was thought necessary to raise a Sum of Money by Subscription to be remitted to Col. *Blackstone*, the then Agent of the Province, in order to counteract and frustrate their Designs. As this Subscription was promoted by several Gentlemen of the Council, and others of the first Rank, some of whom are still living, to them we appeal for the Truth of this Fact. Hence it will appear, that the present Discontents of the People are not owing to the Clamours of a few factious Men, as the Papists and their Abettors have suggested, but to one uniform and continued Scheme of the Papists themselves, either avowed or concealed as the Times and Occasions required, to subvert the Protestant Interest.