

“ a man a Roman Catholic, then under Condemnation, for apprehending whom a very large Reward had  
 “ been offered and given by Virtue of an Act of Assembly specially made for that Purpose: From the Cir-  
 “ cumstances, then, abovementioned, I conceive, it cannot be fairly deduced; and as you have not thought  
 “ proper by other Arguments to prove, that the Gentlemen who made Application to me in Favour of the  
 “ Criminal in *Mary's County*, did, when they made such Application, really know that he had changed  
 “ his Religion, and on that Account make it, I am afraid you have been a little too hasty in resolving that  
 “ the Motives you were pleas'd to suggest, and no other, did or could induce those Gentlemen to make such  
 “ Application. I have had an Opportunity of speaking to the worthy Person, whom you, I presume, distin-  
 “ guish by the Title of Lawyer and Judge, and am convinced, that at the Time of signing the Petition he  
 “ was a Stranger to what you do not say, but would insinuate, he was acquainted with: And tho' all the  
 “ other Gentlemen may not have been ignorant of that Matter, yet, I am satisfi'd, that it was not one of  
 “ the Motives that induced them to subscribe the Petition. I have already assur'd you, and indeed you do  
 “ me the Justice to believe, that I was not apprized of the Criminal's being a Roman Catholic, when I  
 “ granted him a Reprieve; but really if I had, I do not think I should have order'd him to be executed  
 “ purely on that Account: For, tho' my own Principles, as well as Duty, will incline and oblige me to  
 “ countenance and encourage, as much as lies in my Power, the Propagation of the Established Religion;  
 “ yet, I cannot promise you, that either in administering Justice I will distinguish one Sect from another, or  
 “ that when a Person appears, or may be represent'd to me, as a proper Object of Mercy, it shall be my  
 “ first Enquiry, Whether he is of the same Sentiments in Religion as myself. What has been already said,  
 “ would, I am inclin'd to think, convince every impartial Person, that you have not even yet elucidated  
 “ the First of the Three particular Facts, which were, according to your Account, notorious Instances of  
 “ the Prevalence and Power of a Popish Faction, and of Partiality shewn them. But, lest you should be  
 “ displeas'd at my having hesitated to believe what you advanced in your first Address on this Subject, till  
 “ you should produce some extraordinary Evidence in Support of the Facts, then barely assert'd, I shall  
 “ communicate to you what I know for certain in Relation to this Affair, and am not without Hopes, that  
 “ you yourselves will, on perusing it, excuse my Incredulity: After *Edward Caster*, the Offender mention'd  
 “ to often, had been convict'd of Felony, and thereupon condemn'd, his Wife came to *Annapolis*, and in  
 “ the most pathetic Terms implored Mercy for her Husband, and intreated me to pity herself and Family,  
 “ who, by the Execution of the Sentence pronounc'd against him, would be reduc'd to the utmost Distress  
 “ and Misery. I must acknowledge I could not see and hear the wretched Woman without some Emotion;  
 “ and, tho' it should be deem'd a Fault, I will not deny that I told her, if she could get the Judges, who  
 “ condemn'd her Husband, to make any Representation in his Favour, I should, perhaps, be prevail'd on  
 “ to extend my Mercy towards him: Upon this, the poor affectionate Wife hasten'd to throw herself at the  
 “ Feet of the Gentlemen, by whose Intercession alone she found her Husband could be sav'd; and, addressing  
 “ herself to them severally, as she had done to me, at length prevail'd with them to shew that they were  
 “ not insensible or destitute of Humanity, and to take such a Step as tend'd to alleviate her Afflictions, and  
 “ engage themselves (as it has prov'd) to the Censure of some who were pleas'd to take Offence thereat.  
 “ As Mr. *Kin* seems to be more particularly hinted at in your Address than the other Gentlemen, I must do  
 “ him the Justice to observe to you, that he was the last that sign'd the Petition, and moreover, wrote to  
 “ me, desiring the Criminal might receive no Benefit therefrom, unless he should immediately depart the  
 “ Province, and never return again; which Condition, I presume, was accordingly complied with.  
 “ In Answer to your Remark on the second Fact, adduc'd to shew the Prevalence of a Popish Faction, I  
 “ shall repeat what I before told you, that those who interest'd themselves in the young Fellow's Favour,  
 “ were most of them Protestant-Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood, which, I have heard, has been confirm'd  
 “ to you by a Member of your own House: The Delinquent was a Youth; the Son of a Gentleman who  
 “ had been universally esteem'd; 'twas said to be his first Fault; whether he was made a useful Evidence  
 “ against *Caster*, I never enquir'd, nor shall concern myself about it: Let it suffice, that I was inform'd  
 “ he could be an Evidence; and, tho' the Youth might have impos'd on his Friends, by telling them that  
 “ he had been privy to a Roguery of that Villain's, when he had not, or might, on the Trial, have pre-  
 “ tended Ignorance to screen him, I do not conceive that either myself, or the Gentlemen who apply'd to  
 “ me in his Behalf, are accountable for such his Behaviour.  
 “ I must also beg Leave to repeat what I before observ'd on the Case of that Woman, who is produc'd  
 “ as the third Instance of Partiality shewn to Persons of a different Persuasion from my own, since my Ad-  
 “ ministration: She was married to a very loose and extravagant Man; her Husband had been brought up  
 “ by, and depend'd upon, an Uncle; the Wife went with a forged Letter of Credit, sign'd with the Name  
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