

or both indifferently, when their Country was in Danger from an Invasion, *Europeans* or *Savages*, they exerted themselves unanimously in opposing the common Enemy, and as none thought himself, in those infant Days of the Colony, more remote than another from Danger, they generously hastened to each other's Assistance; and they, who did not expose their Persons, never refused or scrupled to make such Satisfaction and Allowance to those who did, and who, in Obedience to the Laws, and their superior Officers Commands, were obliged to do so, as was reasonable and adequate to their respective Services. But, during this Period, the Priests were permitted to accept or purchase Landed Estates, which they were allowed to hold after the Revolution, when the Government of this Province was immediately in the Crown, and were not compelled to relinquish or resign even when his late Majesty was pleased to restore it to the present Lord Proprietary's Honourable Father, the late Lord BALTIMORE: Who was to blame, and how it happened, that these People have, at Times, been suffered to enlarge their Possessions by Purchase or Donation, the Journals of the Assembly-Proceedings, at such Times, will inform you: At this Season, I hope no Branch of the Legislature would be averse to taking proper Measures to prevent it. In 1710, you say, many Gentlemen were so strongly persuaded, that the Papists were then taking Steps to prejudice the Protestant Government and Religion in *Maryland*, that they raised a Sum of Money by Subscription to encourage Col. *Blackiston* to counteract and frustrate such their Designs; which, I conclude, Col. *Blackiston* effectually did, as I find the Assembly, in an Act that was passed soon after, expressed their Sentiments in these Words: *This present General Assembly are fully sensible how deeply they are engaged to his Majesty the Right Honourable the Proprietary, for his so generous and ready Compliance with the most important of our most humble Requests, in committing the Care of all his Public and Private Affairs, within this Province, entirely into the Hands of well-affected Protestants, to the Disappointment of others, and much to the Peace and Satisfaction of his Majesty's most affectionate Subjects: From which free and public Declaration, I think, it might be presumed, that the Subscribers before spoken of, and other the good and loyal People of the Province, were, at this Time, satisfied, that a Remedy was applied to the Evil, which, you say, was inveterate; and I apprehend, that the Gentlemen, who, in such a Manner, expressed their Gratitude for the Steps his Lordship had taken to remove their Uneasiness, saw no longer any Evil, nor felt any Grievance that loudly called for Redress. Before we proceed to remark on what occurred in 1746, it might not perhaps be improper to premise, that for several Years, preceding that Time, the Roman Catholics had been Favourites of and caressed by the Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly, who, in a Message to be seen among their Proceedings, declared to another Branch of the Legislature, *They were well assured, that the few of those People here amongst us had it neither in their Power or Inclination to disturb the Peace or Safety of the Province: But, it seems, when the unnatural Rebellion broke out in Scotland, his Excellency Governor Bladen received such Information, concerning the Behaviour of some of them, as made him fear they did not want Inclination to disturb the Public Tranquility, and give the Government Uneasiness; and thereupon, like a careful loyal Gentleman, he issued the Proclamation, from which you have taken your Extract: But how this evinces, that the Jesuits and their Adherents were then treated with extraordinary Lenity and Tenderness by the Governor, or that they still met with Indulgence, I confess myself at a Loss to comprehend.**

Having now gone through your long Address, which obliged me to be somewhat more prolix than really I could have wished, I shall also resolve to dismiss this Subject; but cannot do so without assuring you, that while I have the Honour to reside among you in the Character I now bear, you will always find me ready and willing to redress any Evils, which shall appear to be more than imaginary: And as many of you are Magistrates in your respective Counties, and cannot but know by the Circular Letters, which, with the Advice of his Lordship's Council, were some Time since wrote to the County Courts, that Papists have little Reason to expect any Favour, during my Administration, unless they are exceedingly careful not to offend, I hope such of you will acquaint the Rest, and your Constituents, with the Purport of those Letters: In Answer to which the Magistrates assure me, *That, after a careful Enquiry and Scrutiny into the Conduct of the People of the Romish Faith, who reside among us, they have not found that any of them have misbehaved, or given just Cause of Offence; and as it will be their Interest to continue quiet, and approve themselves good and loyal Subjects, I flatter myself they will avoid every Act or Appearance that may give Umbrage to the Magistrates, People, or Myself, or make on us the least unfavourable Impression.*

But to conclude this, the last Answer I hope of the Sort I shall ever be under a Necessity of making to Gentlemen, whose Representations, Opinion, and Desires, either collectively or separately, will always have their due Weight with me; I desire and hope nothing that I have been obliged to say in my own

Justification,