

for Instance, the Judges of the Land-Office, and other Officers and Ministers, and Persons employed in Furnaces and Forges, &c.

As to the double Tax upon Non-Jurors, which, it seems, you are now willing to put upon a different Footing than it was by your Bill, you have made it necessary for us to consider it more fully than we did in our former Message, as well to explain the Motives of our Conduct, and vindicate it against your Aspersions, as to shew that your Attempt was inconsistent with Justice and Humanity.

The Papists, Gentlemen, are so far the principal Objects of our Regard, as your Design is to oppress them by the Measure you would introduce; and we do most sincerely declare to you, that any Men, let their Persuasions in Religious Matters be what they will, in the same Circumstance with the Papists, would be as much the Objects of our Regard as they are; and that popular Applause, to be purchased by the inhuman Act of wantonly Persecuting any Christians, nay, any Infidels, we not only do not desire, but abhor, and shall despise any Calumny for not doing what our Consciences forbid us to do.

What you mean by waving your undoubted Right we can't comprehend: Is it your undoubted Right to Banish them because they are Obnoxious to you? The double Tax upon Non-Jurors in the Act for Granting 40,000*l.* you were Gratiſied in; at the Time that Act passed it was not apprehended it would be so considerable as it is likely to prove; this double Tax amounted only to 1*s.* per Hundred Acres of Land; and tho' it was thought of trifling Consequence at the Time the Act passed, it met with great Difficulties, and those Gentlemen by whose Concurrence it was established, can satisfy you, that if they had perceived it was proposed as a Step to your present Attempt, you would not have the Opportunity of mentioning it now. We could put you in Mind, that it is not long since the Lower House shewed no Disposition to harras these People.

We observed in our Message, that the first Settlement of this Province, was made by Roman Catholics, who had been driven from their native Country by the Severity of it's Laws; and that after the Services these People had done, in extending the Dominions of the Crown, and had been promised and allowed an Asylum here, an Act of the Legislature, which would have the Effect of Banishing their Posterity, when it can't be pretended that it is necessary such an extreme Measure should take Place, could not be defended upon any Principle of Justice or Policy.

You have been pleased to remark upon this Passage of our Message, that you have not been able to discover any Thing in History or otherwise, to Justify or Countenance our Assertion, that the Papists were promised and allowed an Asylum here: It may be so, but it is not our Fault that you have not; and to be plain with you, we should have been restrained from telling you what you have been pleased to acknowledge, by the Apprehension of it's giving Offence; however, as you have desired to have this Matter explained, and we flatter ourselves it may have some Effect, we shall undertake to do it in as full a Manner as the Shortness of the Time will admit.

This Province was Granted by Charter to *Cæcilius* Lord Baltimore the 20th June, 1633, who was then a Roman Catholic. The Charter recites, that Lord Baltimore "*Patris inherens vestigiis, laudabili, & pro Christianæ Religionis pariter et Imperii Nostri Territoriz dilatandæ studiis flagrans, licentiam supplicaverit,*" &c.

The Granting Clause begins thus, "*Sciatis igitur quod nos pium, & nobile præfatorum Baronum de Baltimore propositum & studium Regis Favore prosequenti Concedimus,*" &c.

After the Charter was thus Granted to Lord Baltimore, who was then a Roman Catholic, his Lordship emitted his Proclamations to encourage the Settlement of his Province, promising therein, among other Things, Liberty of Conscience, and an equal Exercise of Religion to every Denomination of Christians, who would Transport themselves and Reside in his Province, and that he would procure a Law to be passed for that Purpose afterwards. The first or second Assembly that met after the first Colonists arrived here, some Time in the Year 1638, a perpetual Law passed in Pursuance of his Lordship's Promise, and indeed such a Law was easily obtained from those who were the first Settlers. This Act was confirmed in 1640, and again 1650. By this Act it was Enacted, "that whatsoever Person or Persons should, upon any Occasion of Offence or otherwise, in a reproachful Manner, or any way, declare, call or denominate, any Person or Persons, Inhabiting or Residing, Trading or Commercing, within the Province, an Heretic, Schismatic, Idolater, Puritan, Independent, Presbyterian, Popish Priest, Jesuit, Papist, Lutheran, Calvinist, Anabaptist, Brownist, Antioxian, Barrowist, Ramhead, Separatist, or any other Name or Term, in a reproachful Manner, relating to Matter of Religion, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and lose the Sum of 10*s.* Sterling. And whereas the enforcing of Conscience in Matters of Religion, hath frequently fallen out to be dangerous in those Common-wealths where it hath been practised, and for