

“ was very much reflected upon, they humbly begged Leave of their Lordships to do his Excellency what Justice they could by acquainting their Lordships with the *Reasons*, and *Motives* of that Letter, and what they knew of his Excellency since that Time—That it was purely at the *Instance*, and *Avowment* of Governor Copley, and Mr. [ <sup>d</sup> ] Blackiston, both of whom did give Assurance of their having Reason to suspect such Things as were mentioned in that Letter, and said that they had several Informations, and should in Time get Proof of such Practices, but that *none* had since been heard of, and that upon better Information they found the *direct contrary Principles in him, to what were then asserted*—That so far from disaffecting the then, or present Constitution of Government, he hath with the greatest Care studied to preserve, and improve it by the best Measures, and Means, and as to countenancing Papists, they found nothing in him tending that Way, unless in his Administration of Justice to them, where due, without Distinction of any Sect, and as their Journals of Assembly, and all other Records made appear, they were assured that none had ever done more by Persuasions, and Example, and large Gifts, to propagate the Protestant Religion in this Province than him. This they thought themselves obliged in Justice to say to their Lordships to vindicate the Honour of his Excellency, and wipe off the Reflections in a Manner imposed upon them.”

THE same Men that were concerned in the Report respecting the Tonnage, and in the Act of 1692, were also concerned in the Representations against Sir Thomas Lawrence, and Mr. Nicholson, whose Treachery, and Vindication have been explained, in Order to shew what Principles prevailed in the Year 1692 under Copley's Administration, and with what Caution Credit ought to be given to the Assertions of Men, blinded by Passion, and Prejudice, or misled by the Arts of crafty, and intriguing Spirits.

THE [ <sup>n</sup> ] Impeachment against Lord Baltimore was dropped, but the Substance of it was introduced into the Act for “ Settlement of an annual Revenue upon their Majesties Governor,” which passed in the same Year, and, as I think, I shall demonstrate under the same Influence.

I MUST go back to the Year 1671, in order to give you a clear View of what passed in Reference to the Revenue Act enacted in the Year 1692, under the Title of “ a Settlement of an annual Revenue upon their Majesty's Governor within this Province for the Time being.”

IN the Year 1671 an Act of Assembly was passed entitled “ An Act for the raising and providing a Support for his Lordship the Lord Proprietary of this Province during his natural Life, and likewise a Supply towards the defraying the public Charges of Government,” by which, after reciting that “ the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly with all imaginable Gratitude reflecting upon the great Grace, and Favour expressed by his Lordship to the People of this Province in the unwearied Care, which his Lordship had shewn, and the ~~great Charge and Expence,~~ *he had been put to from the Time of their first Seating unto this Instant*, to preserve them in the Enjoyment of their Lives, Liberties, and the Increase, and Improvement of their Estates, and Fortunes, and taking it into their serious Consideration that, as Government is necessary for the Conservation of all Societies, the Charges of every Government, without which it cannot subsist, ought in Reason to be borne by those whose Conservation depends upon the Government, for and towards defraying the many great and necessary Expences of Government; and to the Intent that his Lordship, his Heirs, and Successors might for the future be enabled in some Measure to defray the same, and in particular to allow competent Salaries, and Encouragement to the Lieutenants General and Chief Governors, and to the Privy Council of the Lord, and Proprietary for the Time being, so as without Prejudice to their private Affairs, they might be encouraged, and reasonably required to attend unto the Administration of Justice, and other public Concernments, IT WAS ENACTED That Two Shillings Sterling per Hoghead should be paid to his Lordship, one Moiety thereof to be employed towards maintaining a constant Magazine with Arms, and Ammunition, and defraying the other public necessary Charges of the Government, provided that, so long as the Act should continue, his Lordship and his Receivers for the Time being should receive Tobacco for his Lordship's Rents, and Fines for Alienation at the Rate of Two Pence per Pound.”

[ <sup>1</sup> ] See before the Note, Page 13.

[ <sup>m</sup> ] This was a dark Business. The Secret Committee, after spending some Time in it desired the Council to draw it up, which it seems, they did, and laid it before Governor Copley, who advised them to abridge it, as appears by a Message from him, and in its abridged State it stands in the Journals, but I have not been able to find the original Draught. The Secret Committee called for the Assistance of the Council, and they for the Advice of the Governor. He advised an Abridgement, it was afterwards dropped as an Impeachment; but the Substance of it was preserved in the Act of 1692.