

L. H. J. Gentlemen. It is Obvious to all (who are not willfully blind) what Steps the Roman Catholicks were takeing to Introduce themselves again, into the Administration of this Govern^t. But being by their L^{dps} prudence, discountenanced in their Practices, and also oposed by me in their pretended right, of not being unqualified as it is Termed, and likewise Impeded of Employing those offices, they had so surprizeingly obtained and which Indeed they were Unqualified for,

It was a Natural Conclusion after Such a defeat that they woud have satt Downe, and been Contented and easy under the protection of the Government as they were permitted to be. But on the Contrary, the Roman Catholicks, Indefatigable in their Designes, turned all their rage and Fury of Disappointment, to Calumniate my Conduct, & by Heaping of Indignity upon me, used their utmost Efforts, thereby to remove me from this Station

To gain this point I am Informed that a very large Sume of mony was Subscribed for, by the Leading men of the Romish Community, and some of them went as emissarys to London, and were very Active there against me, and Exclaimed in
p. 6 bitter Terms of my persecuting the Papists in this province, and how Cruel a Manner they were treated in, and Even de-barr'd the Liberty of a free Commerce.

When I demonstrated to their L^{dps} how Groundless and unjustly these Clamours were, Their L^{dps} answer was so just & so much for their Honour, as well as Vindication of my Character, that I take it as a Duty, to give you their L^{dps} Sentiments in their own words, as I have them by a Letter dated the 16th of November past, and are as follows:

It is very true representations have been made to us of your Persecution and Severity to the Roman Catholicks, but as those representations, appear to be grounded only on Fears and Jealousies not facts, so we must approve of your Integrity to us, in keeping them in due bounds by the Gentle methods you have taken.

Gentlemen: As there has been no oppertunitys lost by which the Roman Catholicks imagined they might Deter me in the Duty of my office, so they had upon cases most unfairly Stated, obtained the Opinion of three Eminent Lawyers, on the Act of Assembly of this Province for Suspending the Prosecution of Popish priests &c^a. These Opinions shall be laid before you for your Consideration upon them.

Upon my representation of the case to their L^{dps} in the Clearest veiw I was Capable of, I have the Honour of their L^{dps} Answer upon the occasion as follows.