

or commercing within this Province a Heretick Schismatic Idolater, Puritan, Independent, Presbyterian, Popish Priest, Jesuit, Papist Lutheran Calvinist Annatapist, Brownist, Antinomian, Barrowist Roundhead 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 10s : Sterling. And whereas the enforcing of Conscience in Matters of Religion hath frequently fallen out to be dangerous in those Commonwealths where it has been practised, and for the more quiet and peaceable Government of this Province, and the better to preserve mutual Love and Unity among the Inhabitants, it is enacted that no Person or Persons within the Province professing to believe in Jesus Christ shall be any way troubled, molested, or discountenanced, for or in Respect of Religion, nor in the free Exercise thereof.

U. H. J.
Liber No. 35
May 4

There being some Disturbance in this Province in the Year 1652. the Protector in Nov.^r 1655. upon the Representation of the Proprietary directed the Commissioners Whitlocke and Widdrington to enquire into the Cause and Circumstances of it, who having made their Report, that was referred to Committee for Trade and Plantations, and some Proposals having been made also to settle the Peace and Tranquility of the Province, the Whole fell under the Consideration of the Committee and after their Report the Protector in October 1656: sent in his Instructions to the Government here by which he strictly enjoined the Observance of the above recited Act concerning Religion

In the Year 1657. Lord Baltimore made the following Declaration, that he never would give his Assent to the Repeal of the Act concerning Religion by which all Persons professing to believe in Jesus Christ should have Freedom of Conscience which was confirmed by Act of Assembly. Part of the Oath directed to be Taken between 1636. and 1657. by the Governor and Council was in the following Words " I will not by myself or any other Person directly or indirectly trouble, molest, or discountenance any Person whatsoever professing to believe in Jesus Christ for or in Respect of his or her Religion, nor in the free Exercise thereof so far was the Oath common to both Governor and Council, but the Governor's proceeded farther " that he would make no Difference of Persons in conferring of Offices, Rewards, or Favours proceeding from the Authority his Lordship had conferred upon him for or in Respect of their Religion, but merely as he should find them faithful and well deserving and to the best of his Understanding endued with moral Virtues and Abilities fitting, wherein his principal Aim should be sincerely the Advancem.^t of his Lordship's Service, and the public Unity and if, any Officer or Person should molest or disturb any Person professing to believe in Jesus Christ merely for or in Respect of his or her Religion or the free Exercise thereof he would upon Notice apply

p. 319