

L. H. J. Impunity it would destroy the very essence of all Authority and power amongst you, which are principally constituted to pull down, and punish the haughty and the Bad, and to Support and Cherish the humble and good. I do therefore recommend it to you to make such provision, as may Support the Magistrates in the Administration of Justice, which may not be lyable to the former exception, and this you will find agreeable to their Lordships Opinions & inclinations.

Gentlemen of the Upper & Lower house.

I have the Honour to receive late letters from their Lordships Signifying their Concern & resentment for the indirect and Malicious Proceedings of Some of the Roman Catholicks against me,

Which gives me great Satisfaction so that depending on their Lordships favour & protection it is unwillingly I again
 p. 7 Name that Community in a publick manner, were it not to disabuse those persons whom they have unjustly prepossessed against me, by urging that the Roman Catholicks are under a persecution in Maryland, which in this place is so well Known to be a Notorious untruth, that it Scarcely deserves a Reply.

But their Clamours on this Score haveing reached Great Britain with very aggravating Circumstances I am laid under a necessity of Justifying my Character from this barbarous Imputation in this open way to the World, by Declaring I never had other Views or intentions against the Roman Catholicks, but to prevent their Employing of Offices or of having any influence, either Publickly or Privately on the Administration of this Government, and this I looked upon as my indispensable duty as a Governour, and I know no cause to alter my Sentiments, when in Private capacity and am always ready, when required to give an account of My Conduct and Stewardship to My Superiors

As for the unreasonable cry of persecution, I do now in the face of the Countrey, challenge and defy the Roman Catholicks or their Adherents to Shew one Instance wherein they, or any of them have been persecuted for conscience sake or even prosecuted by law on that Account, And this I desire may be made as Publick as possible to the end that all that are Concern'd may have due notice of it, both on my own account,
 p. 8 And for the Justification of the Magistracy of this Province from this false Assertion of Violence and Inclemencie. I am now Convinced their are Some of the Romish Perswasion, and to their praise I speak it, who have not Joyned with the Majority of that People in their late Ambitious pretentions yet whatever Provocations these last have given me, I shall now make