

" 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."

There being some Disturbance in this Province in the Year 1652, the Protector, in November 1655, upon the Representation of the Proprietary, directed the Commissioners *Whitlock* and *Widdington* to enquire into the Cause and Circumstances of it, who having made their Report, that was referred to the 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 his or her Exercise thereof." So far was the Oath common to both Governor and Council. But the Governor's proceeded further, " 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 deserv-
 " ing, and to the best of his Understanding endued with moral Virtues and Abilities fitting; wherein
 " his principal Aim should be sincerely the Advancement 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, ap-
 " ply his Authority to relieve and protect the Person molested, and cause the Person offending to be
 " punished."

The Oath of Fidelity taken by the Inhabitants of this Province, in Virtue of an Act which passed in 1650, was to the following Effect: " I will maintain, to the utmost of my Power, his Lordship's just and
 " lawful Rights, &c. as Granted to his Lordship in his Patent under the Great Seal, not being any way
 " understood to infringe or prejudice Liberty of Conscience in Matter of Religion."

The Grant to Lord *Baltimore*, who was a Papist, his Lordship's Promises and Declarations, the Confirmations of them by Acts of Assembly, and the Oaths we have recited, we hope will amply justify our Assertion, that the Roman Catholics were promised and allowed an Asylum here.

As you have been pleased to say, that you have not discovered any Thing in History or otherwise to Countenance our Assertion, we shall mention some Passages from Books for your Satisfaction; tho' we must observe to you, that Writers may be mistaken or misrepresent, but the Evidence we have produced can't mislead.

Mr. *Bowen*, speaking of *Maryland*, says, " The first Colony sent to *Maryland*, was in the Year 1633,
 " and consisted of 200 People; the Chief of these Adventurers were Gentlemen of good Families and
 " Roman Catholics; for Persons of that Religion being made uneasy (as well as Protestant Dissenters)
 " they Transported themselves to this Province, hoping to enjoy there the Liberty of their Consciences
 " under a Proprietary of their own Profession, as the then Lord *Baltimore* was. King *James* II. before
 " the Revolution, intended to take from the Proprietary the Power of appointing a Governor, being in-
 " stigated thereto by Father *Peters*, which seems something surprizing, since Lord *Baltimore* was of the same
 " Religion with himself; but it must be observed, that Lord *Baltimore*, tho' a Roman Catholic, had been
 " so moderate, or so politic, as to Grant full Liberty of Conscience to all those who should settle in *Mary-
 " land*." So far *Bowen*.

Ogilby, in treating of this Province, says, " that *Maryland*, at the vast Charge, and by the unwearied
 " Industry and Endeavour of Lord *Baltimore*, was at first planted, and hath since been supplied with People
 " and other Necessaries so effectually, that, in the present Year (1671) the Number of *English* amounts
 " unto 15 or 20,000, for whose Encouragement there is a fundamental Law established there, whereby
 " Liberty of Conscience is allowed to all who profess to believe in Jesus Christ, so that no Man who is a
 " Christian, is in Danger of being Disturbed for his Religion."

Norden, upon the same Subject, says, that " the Peopling and Trade of the Province of *Maryland*, by
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