

U. H. J. It hath been affirmed that Cecilius Lord Baltemore Published a Declaration Inviting all persons that believed in the Name of Jesus to Settle and Inhabitt this province promising
 p. 13 them all Equall Privileges yet I presume it will be Admitted that Noble Lord could not give greater Powers than he had

For after all the Privileges and Immunities mentioned in the Charter towards the Conclusion there is this Provision made viz.

“ Provided always that no interpretacon be admitted thereof by which God’s Holy and truly Christian Religion or the Allegiance due unto us our Heirs & Successors may in any ways Suffer any Prejudice or Diminution

The Charter was Granted by King Charles the first who was a Protestant and Certainly could not Intend this Provisoe in favour of any other Religion than that of which he was a zealous Professor. But to make this more Evident It is Expressly Stipulated in the Body of the Charter that all Churches Chappels and Oratories be dedicated and Consecrated according to the Ecclesiasticall Law of the Kingdom of England.

This so well Explains itself, that It wants no Coment. I am only Surprized from what Latent Cause the Papists derive any Privileges here beyond what the Connivance of the Government may indulge them in.

You may observe from your own Experience and from what I now mentioned that their Pretensions (however ill grounded) have Created great Disturbances in this Government and should they gain their points in View may Possibly one Day prove fatall Even to all his Majesty’s Subjects on this Continent considering the prodigious Settlements a formidable nation of their own pswasion are Extending on our Backs. These reflections meritt your precaucon for it is much
 p. 14 Easier and Safer to prevent than to Cure an Inveterate Distemper Contracted by a long neglected ill Habit in the Constitution.

But that I may not be wanting on my part to Apply proper remedys to these great and Growing Evils, I hope you will Approve of my Intentions of Sending for some Principall Persons of the Papists in Order to Examine them before this Sessions what Privilege they have a right to that they Enjoy not And promise them readily to Concurr with you in allowing them whatever is their due without the Least Violation. But if this fair Occasion will not Induce them to Expose their Claim to a publick Examination; I must own It will Confirm me as I think It may reasonably perswade all mankind besides, that they are Conscious it will not bear the Light.