

P. R. O.
Colonial
Papers.

incursion and invade of the said Northern Indians in the year 1681, who were conducted into the heart of this Province by French Jesuits, and lay sore upon us while the Representatives of the Country, then in the Assembly were severely prest upon by our superiours to yield them an unlimited and tyrannicall power in the Affairs of the Militia As so great a piece of vilany cannot be the result but of the worst of principles, soe wee should with the greatest difficulty believe it to be true if undeniable evidence and circumstances did not convince Us.

Together with the promises we have with all due thinking and deliberacōn considered the endeavours that are making to disunite us among ourselves, to make and inflame differences in our neighbour Collony of Virginia, from whose friendship, vicinity great loyalty and samenes of Religion wee may expect assistance in our greatest necessity. Wee have considered that all the other branches of their Majesty's Dominions in this part of the world (as well as wee could be informed) have done their duty in proclaiming and asserting their undoubted right in these & all other their Majesties Territoryes & Countys.

But above all with due and mature deliberacōn wee have reflected upon that vast gratitude and duty incumbent likewise upon us, to our Sovereign Lord and Lady the King and Queene's most Excellent Majesty's in which as it would not be safe for us, soe it will not suffer us to be silent in soe great and general a Jubilee, withall considering and looking upon ourselves, discharged, dissolved and free from all manner of duty, obligacōn or fidelity to the Deputy Gov^r or Chief Magistrate here as such they having departed from their Allegiance (upon which alone our said duty and fidelity to them depends) and by their Complices and Agents aforesaid endeavoured the destruccōn of our religion, lives, libertys, and propertys all which they are bound to protect.

These are the reasons, motives and considerraccōns which wee doe declare have induced us to take up Arms to preserve, vindicate and assert the sovereign Dominion and right of King William and Queen Mary to this Province; to defend the Protest^t Religion among us, and to protect and chelter the Inhabitants from all manner of violence, oppression and destruccōn, that is plotted and designed against them, the which wee doe solemnly declare and protest wee have noe designes or intentions whatsoever.

For the more effectual Accomplishment of which, wee will take due care that a full and free Assembly be called and conven'd with all possible expedicōn by whom we may likewise have our condicōn circumstances, and our most dutyfull addresses represented and tendered to their Majesties, from