

Lib. C. B. and Necessity of continuing that Law: But to Our great Amazement they sent to the Upper House a Bill which not only directed the Manner of issuing the money contrary to every former Law of that kind, but also subjected the Money to such a Disposition, as that the whole Design of such Law might very easily happen to be rendered ineffectual, and useless to the Defence of the Province; But their Resolution on this Bill seemed still more extraordinary, when instead of the Continuance of such a Law for Three Years, and to the End of the next Session as the Act made in 1735 was, They added a Continuance only until September 1741

p. 112 These Proceedings, May it please Your Majesty, very much surprized and alarmed Us; we could not but think it very unaccountable that an Act which had been continued for many Years past in Time of Peace and tended to provide for the Defence of the Province, should be absolutely refused to be longer continued in April 1739, when We were under daily Apprehensions of a Spanish War; And that afterwards at the time of being actually engaged in that War, and under the Dread of a French One, It should be limited only to September 1741: Our Fears and Jealousies on this head were so far from being lessened, that they were the rather increased, by the Messages which the Lower House sent to the Upper House on Occasion of this Bill; for instead of giving any Satisfaction by agreeing to a proper Continuance of such an Act, They assured Us of the Inclinations of the Roman Catholicks (who are numerous amongst Us) not to disturb the peace and Safety of this Province, And although a dangerous Conspiracy had been lately discovered amongst Our Negroes to massacre all your Majesty's Subjects in this Province, and for which the Ringleader had been brought to a legal Tryal, convicted and executed; Yet the Lower House thought fit on this Occasion to declare, "They could not on Enquiry discover anything of "that Conspiracy, which might in any manner be presumed to "endanger the Peace or Welfare of this Province" But however Our Argument of the Uncertainty how long War with Spain might continue, and how soon another with France might begin, and an Earnestness to encourage Levies for Your Majestys Service in the West Indies so far prevailed with them, as that Both Houses joined in a Conference in Order to settle some Points necessary as well for a Bill to encourage the levying those Forces, as for a Bill to raise a Fund for providing Arms and Ammunition for Defence of the Province; And when the Conferees with the Concurrence and Approbation of their respective Houses had agreed upon the Principal Heads proper for such Bills; The Lower House sent to us a Bill to encourage Levies for Your Majesty's Service,