

Regard they have shewed in Obedience to the aforementioned Lib. C. B.  
Orders of the Lords Justices

It is well known, This Province is inhabited by a very great Number of Roman Catholicks, and some of them of considerable Fortunes; It is not less notorious that in the year 1742 There was a dangerous Conspiracy amongst some of the Indians residing in this Province, carried on in Conjunction with a particular Nation of the Northern Indians; yet notwithstanding these Circumstances peculiar to this Province, together with the Spanish War, and the then Uncertain Situation of Affairs with Regard to France, of General Concernment to all your Majestys Dominions, The Lower house of Assembly grasping at Power in Every Instance, ever since the year 1738 under various Pretences refused to raise that fund which has been from time to time continued for above twenty years for supplying this Province with Arms and Ammunition in such manner as hath been always before practiced, and in the Management whereof, no just Objection could be made p. 220 to the Governor and Council, with whom the Disposition was always intrusted for the Uses to which It was appropriated by the Act: But when the present Lower house was this Session pressed by an Argument of the Alarming Attempt of an Invasion of Great Britain, and the then imminent Danger of a War with France, as well as by the Order and Directions of their Excellencies The Lords Justices, they passed a Bill for Provision of Arms and Ammunition for Defence of the Province almost of the same Import with Two Bills in the two preceeding Sessions, and which They knew had been before rejected, since they could not be passed, without a most severe Reflection on the Lord Proprietary and Government as well as that the Frame of the Bill was so defective that the Design of raising the money might be frustrated

In this manner did They shew their Dispositions to obey those Orders to provide for their own safety and put this Province in a Condition of Defence and Attack, when the News arrived of the Declaration of War, between your Majesty and the French King; These Accounts we hoped, would have animated them with such a Sense of their own Danger and Duty to Your Majesty as to have made the most ample Provision, so as your Majestys Expectations & Commands signified by the Lords Justices might be effectually answered and obeyed; But, to Our surprize, such was their Perseverance in their former Resolutions, that they not only slighted repeated Importunities to put Our Militia on a better foot, and not to leave Us without means of providing for the security of this Province; but even endeavoured by the Stint of a Certain Sum of Money in no manner likely to answer the purposes,