

U. H. J. Posture of Defence we are able, against any such Invasion or At-
 Calvert tempt of the French or any Others ” Although this Preamble con-
 Paper tains the strongest Reasons imaginable for Its Continuance to a
 No. 735 determined time, and to the End of the next Session, as Acts of the
 like kind have usually been for many years, yet this Bill is absolutely
 limited to September 1741 : This Alteration, if proper at any time
 cannot be so now, when it is uncertain, how long Our War with
 Spain may continue, or how soon Another with France may begin,
 if not already proclaimed The Money now in hand from that Fund
 perhaps is not more than sufficient to provide such necessary Arms
 and Ammunition, as a prudent Caution in times of Peace (even
 against such like Conspiracys as have lately happened amongst Our
 Negroes) might require; And therefore not to say anything of the
 Motive of self Preservation, We cannot think this Bill corresponds
 with Our often boasted Loyalty: Should a French War break out,
 and Our Country be attacked, many Accidents in such Times of
 Confusion might prevent the Meeting of an Assembly And if even it
 should meet, any future Concurrence to a Bill of this kind cannot
 from present Appearances be certainly depended on; since it must
 be looked on as very remarkable and extraordinary, That an Act
 for Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of this Province was
 never so much opposed, as since Our Alarms and Apprehensions
 of a dangerous War; And if We are the least backward in con-
 sulting our own Safety and Defence, as well as we can, against all
 possible Accidents; would not Our Offer of furnishing Money to
 encourage Levies for his Majesty's Service abroad be rather thought
 to proceed from a pretended Zeal than any true Principle of Duty
 to his Majesty* Since it might be interpreted We did not think
 Our Preservation or Happiness consisted in any Defence against
 the French; And that the more Money and Men we spared for
 One Service the less we might have for the Other, and consequently
 this Province might be the easier Prey to an invading Enemy; in
 such Circumstances, however fortunate and safe the Roman Catho-
 licks or persons nearly attached to them or their Interests might
 imagine themselves, yet We are perswaded Every Friend to Our
 present happy Establishment must think on such a Situation with
 Horror

p. 27 These Gentlemen are Our Real Thoughts and Apprehensions and
 these have determined us in a fixed Resolution not in the least to
 weaken the Provision now subsisting by Law for the Security and
 Defence of the Province, which we think, as Affairs now stand,
 much too small and ought to be increased; And therefore We chuse
 rather to return that Bill for Arms and Ammunition with a negative,
 than by passing it, or any other at this Juncture, to forward the
 making a Session which must put an End to an Act of the like Kind,
 that otherwise will continue 'till a Session happens; for We think