

L. H. J. Ordered, That the Bill entituled, An Act for the Security of his  
 Liber No. 47 Majesty's Dominion, and to prevent the Growth of Popery within  
 May 30 this Province, be inserted in the Votes and Proceedings, and printed  
 with them.

Which Bill follows in these Words, viz.

An Act for the Security of his Majesty's Dominion, and to prevent  
 the Growth of Popery within this Province.

Whereas the Right Honourable the Earl of Holderness, one of  
 his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, by his Letter to the  
 Governor of this Province, dated Whitehall, August the 28th, Seven-  
 teen Hundred and Fifty Three, hath signified the March of a large  
 Body of French, to commit Hostilities on his Majesty's Dominions  
 here, and directing him to keep a Correspondence with the other  
 Governors of his Majesty's Territories on this Continent, in Order to  
 concert the needful Means for preventing any evil Consequences  
 therefrom; and, since which, the Indians and French have, not only  
 dispossessed his Majesty's Subjects of Settlements, which they had  
 in the Territory of Virginia, within the King's Dominions, but com-  
 mitted barbarous Murders, and made Prisoners of several Traders,  
 and taken their Effects, and are now actually fortifying themselves in  
 those very Places, from whence they have dispossessed his Majesty's  
 Subjects.

And whereas the Insolence and Disaffection of Papists within this  
 Province, to his Majesty's sacred Person and Government, has been  
 too often manifested by many of them; and as many Popish Priests,  
 and Jesuits, hold sundry large Tracts of Land, Mannors, and other  
 p. 461 Tenements, within the Province, and on them, or some of them, have  
 Dwellings, where they live and cohabit, as in a collegiate Manner,  
 having public Mass-Houses, where they celebrate their Religious  
 Functions, in the most public Manner, perverting many of his Maj-  
 esty's dutiful Protestant Subjects to Popery, as also many Servants  
 and Slaves belonging to his Majesty's Protestant Subjects, which,  
 from their known Principles, in Church and State, must prove of  
 most dangerous Consequence to his Majesty's Dominion and his  
 Protestant Subjects here, as well as from the Vicinity of the French,  
 and their allied Indian Nations, and the manifest Incroachments,  
 making by them, on his Majesty's Territories adjoining to this Pro-  
 vince, and the Danger of their being joined and assisted by these our  
 domestic Enemies: To prevent, therefore, such Evils, and the further  
 Growth of Popery, within this Province, it is humbly prayed that it  
 may be enacted.

And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary,  
 by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and  
 the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the  
 same, That all Manors, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, which  
 were vested in any Popish Priest or Jesuit, or Popish Priests or