

increased towards Bettering his Majesty's Revenue, and the Trade of our Mother Country *Great Britain*, as also the Advantages that may consequently ensue to the Province.

We shall have a due Regard to any useful Laws which may Expire with this Session. The Security, Defence and Safety of this Province is so near and dear to us, that we shall be always ready and willing to do every thing requisite and necessary to so good an End, and we assure your Excellency, that your Recommendations shall always have their due Weight with us. The Account which your Excellency has been pleased to lay before this House, shall be considered, and we assure your Excellency, that if we find the same Right and Clear we shall make no Objection thereto; and we doubt not but your Excellency will rather Approve than Condemn our Conduct, if we fairly and openly object against any Erroneous Publick Accounts, it being our undoubted Right and Duty so to do. We hope that this Government hath no Enemies, nor will make any; and malicious private Whispers and groundless Insinuations are weak Attempts which ought to be despised.

We assure your Excellency, that this House will always to the best of their Knowledge, act openly, freely and candidly, and which Conduct most agreeable to Native *British* Sincerity, the inseparable Characteristick of every true *Briton*, we humbly Hope will give no Offence.

To which his Excellency was pleased to make the following
A N S W E R :

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

I Have perused your Address deliver'd to me by your Speaker, on the 5th Instant, and cannot but be very much surpris'd to find, that instead of such mutual Civilities as have usually pass'd at the Beginning of former Assemblies, your Address contains Charges against the Government in general, and Myself in particular, which I am confident are without Foundation, and which, I am very sorry to say, seem rather calculated to create Animosities and foment Differences, than to forward the Public Good; However, I must own myself obliged to you, for giving me so fair and public an Opportunity of Vindicating my own Character and Conduct, which, I flatter myself, I shall be able to do in so clear and intelligible a Manner, as will give entire Satisfaction, not only to every honest and sensible Gentleman in your House, but also in the whole Province.

In the first Place, you confess yourselves at a Loss to know certainly the Motives that induc'd me to the *unprecedented Prorogation*, as you are pleas'd to term it, of the last Assembly, which, I must own, surprizes me the more, as I am not Master enough of the *English* Language to express myself more clearly to you upon that head, than I have already done, without descending to particulars, of which it is not possible