

mergent Occasion, since that Fund raises so little annually: We doubt not but that on a fair Examination of the Conduct of the Gentlemen in our House, their Views, Interest and Actions, will appear in every other Instance as well as this, to co-incide with the good of the Province in a much more remarkable manner than the Behaviour of some who seem to think a sure way to Merit, is to use unbecoming Expressions.

We are exceedingly surprized at the warmth you express on occasion of what we mentioned relating to the Roman Catholicks, if any insinuation is raised of any of you being Roman Catholicks, or attached to their Interests, it must have had it's Rise amongst yourselves, for our Words do not express or imply any such thing, and we doubt not but the Roman Catholicks will, on considering the Words, think there is not the least occasion of Offence given to themselves: Our Words are these, *Viz.* ' In such Circumstances however fortunate and safe the Roman Catholicks, or Persons ' nearly attached to them or their Interests, might imagine themselves, &c. We do not expressly or implicitly by these Words charge the Roman Catholicks with any ill Action or Intention, but the plain Meaning is, that it is very reasonable to suppose Persons of that Communion and sincerely Zealous for their Religion, (which is with such always preferred to every earthly Consideration) would think themselves more fortunate and easy, if their Religion was established here, tho' even by a Conquest of this Province by the *French*, than any true Protestant could think himself in such a Situation; had Roman Catholicks of such like Principles as have often been discovered in Plots against our King and Mother Country, or any Persons known for Disobedience or rebellious Opposition to our present glorious and happy Establishment in the House of *Hanover*, given us the same assurances as you have done, of the Inclinations as well as Power in the Roman Catholicks, not to disturb the Peace or Safety of the Province, under the present Circumstances of an impending War with *France*, and an actual one with a Roman Catholick Prince who avowedly cherishes the Pretender and his Adherents, we could readily have accounted for such Declarations, by imputing them to the usual Policy of endeavouring to draw us into a fatal Opinion of Security: But to have such Assurances from a Lower House of Assembly composed of Protestants and loyal Subjects to his Majesty, and true Friends to the *Hanover* Succession, is really very unaccountable: The Parliament of *Great Britain* has been always so far from vouching for the Conduct of Roman Catholicks at any time, and much less in the time of War, with Princes of that Communion, that the strictest Watch has been always had over them and their Actions, and even since our present War with *Spain*, it appears by the publick Prints in *November*