

ember last, that upon an Address of the House of Commons of *Ireland*, a Proclamation was published by the Lord Lieutenant, to seize all Arms, Armour and Ammunition in the Possession of any Papist or reputed Papist; these particulars we mention to satisfy you, that although we have not a less good Opinion than yourselves of the Roman Catholics in this Province, and of many in *England*, in what relates to private Life, and even to many Actions in publick Life, yet we dare not answer for their Conduct in any Affair where the establishment of their Religion may come into Question.

We hope you are already convinced of our being in earnest to encourage the Levies directed by his Majesty, and we own ourselves not sharp sighted enough to see the Contradiction which seems to you in our Offer of part of the Fund for Arms, &c. for we say, the Fund perhaps is not more than sufficient to provide necessary Arms, &c. but we tell you in the latter part that a Calculation may be made, and we cannot see where the Impropriety is of making a Calculation to know whether any Money can be spared from a Fund, which *perhaps* may not be sufficient for the original Uses and Purposes, and our readiness to join in contributing such Money as may be found on calculation more than sufficient for such Purposes.

If any handle has been made of the Conspiracy of our Negroes to any other purpose than to discover and bring the accused to a legal Tryal and Punishment, we assure you of our being entirely Strangers to it, nor have we ever heard of any thing being industriously spread over the Province about it, except what tended to discredit the Opinion of the Romish Priests being concerned in it: By the several Informations taken by a Magistrate, as well as by the Flight and Conviction afterwards of the Ringleader since executed for that Fact, we have not the least doubt of the Truth of such cruel Designs having been in Agitation amongst the Negroes, and whatever you may think of them we cannot but be fearful of much Danger to the Peace and Welfare of the Province from such number of Slaves as are amongst us, if we should not make proper Provision against their Attempts.

Upon the whole, *Gentlemen*, although we have at present a War with *Spain*, and you declare yourselves apprehensive of a sudden one with *France*, who has Settlements and Forts within less than eight or ten Days March from our Borders which lie exposed to every Insult or Attack, although by the Laws regulating our Militia, there is not sufficient Authority to oblige the Service of any one in Defence of our Country against an Invasion, although we have lately had a Conspiracy amongst our Negroes, yet to our great amazement you would persuade us into an Opinion of Security: As for