

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
February 25

wanting in Gratitude to your Excellency, if we did not return you our hearty Thanks for the Confidence you are pleased to express, that such a Suspicion would be groundless and most unjust; and we cannot figure to ourselves any Thing that can at this Time divert us from making a Provision suitable to the Circumstances of the People we represent, against their Incursions for the future, and for the Services recommended to our Consideration by your Excellency.

As we are convinced the Reasons that induced us to make an Act at our last Session, to prevent warlike Stores and Provisions being exported from this Province to our Enemies, still exist, we will, with all possible Dispatch, revive that Act: Your Excellency's Expedient for preventing ill-disposed Persons from taking Advantage of its Expiration, being a Transaction, we conceive, not warrantable by Law, we are sorry we cannot give it the Approbation your Excellency seems to desire; tho' at the same Time we are fully convinced it was the Effect of your earnest Intentions for promoting his Majesty's Service, and the Interest of the common Cause.

As the most natural Strength of every free Government (and on which we apprehend we must at this Season chiefly depend for our Security) consists in a well-armed and well-regulated Militia, a proper Law for that Purpose shall be one great Object of our Deliberations. And we take Leave to assure your Excellency, we entertain the most sanguine Hopes that the Unanimity and Dispatch, which will attend the Proceedings of the several Branches of the Legislature, at this Time of uncommon and imminent Danger, will clearly demonstrate to all the World how much they have at Heart the Honour of his most Sacred Majesty, and the Safety and Welfare of his American Dominions.

Which was read and assented to, and signed, by Order of the House, by the Honourable Speaker.

Ordered, That Major Hall and Col. Tilghman do acquaint his Excellency, That this House hath prepared an Address to be presented to him, and desires to know when and where he will please to receive it: They return and acquaint M.^r Speaker, That the Governor was pleased to signify he would be ready to receive the Address in the Conference Chamber immediately.

Ordered, That Philip Hammond, Esq; and Thirteen more, do present the Address to his Excellency.

On Motion, Leave given, to bring in a Bill to revive the Act entituled, An Act to prevent the Exportation or Carrying out of this Province, Ammunition, Warlike Stores, or Provisions of any Kind, towards supplying the French, or their Allies.

Ordered, That the Committee of Laws do prepare and bring in a Bill accordingly.