

and tended to provide for the Defence of the Province, should be absolutely refused to be longer continued in April 1739, when We were under daily Apprehensions of a Spanish War; And that afterwards at the time of being actually engaged in that War, and under the Dread of a French One, It should be limited only to Septem^r. 1741: Our Fears and Jealousies on this head were so far from being lessened, that they were the rather increased, by the Messages which the Lower House sent to the Upper House on Occasion of this Bill; for instead of giving any Satisfaction by agreeing to a proper Continuance of such an Act, They assured Us of the Inclinations of the Roman Catholics (who are numerous amongst Us) not to disturb the Peace and Safety of this Province, And although a dangerous Conspiracy had been lately discovered amongst Our Negroes to massacre all Your Majesty's Subjects in this Province, and for which the Ringleader had been brought to a legal Tryal, convicted and executed; Yet the Lower House thought fit on this Occasion to declare, "They could not on Enquiry discover anything of that Conspiracy, which might in any manner be presumed to endanger the Peace or Welfare of this Province" But however Our Argument of the Uncertainty how long War with Spain might continue, and how soon another with France might begin, and our earnestness to encourage Services for Your Majesty's Service in the West Indies so far prevailed with them, as that Both Houses joined in a Conference in Order to settle some Points necessary as well for a Bill to encourage the levying those Forces, as for a Bill to raise a Fund for providing Arms and Ammunition for Defence of the Province; And when the Conference with the Concurrence and Approbation of their respective Houses had agreed upon the principal Heads proper for such Bills; The Lower House sent Us a Bill to encourage Services for Your Majesty's Service, which We passed, and was immediately enacted into a Law; But they at the same time came to a surprising Resolution, not to pass the Other Bill for Defence of the Province, which had been agreed to by the Conference of Both Houses, until We should return to their House some Bills (which they had before sent up) with such Duration, as the Lower House was pleased to dictate to Us: And for a Colour to this unprecedented Behaviour, They pretended to have Apprehensions of