

' The Assembly seem to foresee, from the fluctu-
 ' ating State of Trade and Commerce in this Province,
 ' depending much on the Increase and Decrease of the
 ' Navy and Army, that there is great Reason to fear or
 ' hope that the Revenues will decrease or be much aug-
 ' mented; to prevent or provide against which they
 ' have offered such Methods as his Majesty's Council
 ' conceive will not answer the End proposed, as the Se-
 ' curity for the Farmer cannot be compelled to fulfill the
 ' Obligation but by a Suit in Law; and by Appeals and
 ' Writs of Error, and by other Protractions in the Law,
 ' a Delay may be caused that would ruin the Province:
 ' And should the Farmer gain too much (as the Assem-
 ' bly call it) we should be found to have sold the King's
 ' Revenue much under its Value, and without his Ma-
 ' jesty's Leave.

' In order to prevent too great an Importation of
 ' Spirits in one Year, the Assembly propose that the
 ' Stock of Spirits in the Province, shall be taken at the
 ' Time when the Farmer is to commence, and also at
 ' the End of the Year, but the Persons to take the Stock
 ' at these Periods, and in what Manner they are to pro-
 ' ceed, is not mentioned. Now his Majesty's Council
 ' conceive it a Thing next to an Impossibility to know
 ' the exact Quantity of Spirits in the whole Province at
 ' any one precise Day, as for that Purpose every private
 ' Person's Stock must or ought to be known; and as it
 ' would require some Months to effect that, by the
 ' Time the Officers had finished this Business, there must
 ' be a considerable Alteration from the Importation and
 ' Consumption; neither of which his Majesty's Coun-
 ' cil apprehend, can be ascertained, and the making a
 ' Law to empower a Farmer or his Officers, to enter into
 ' private Houses to search for Liquors, is such an In-
 ' fringement upon the Liberty of the Subject, that they
 ' cannot think the Assembly, upon mature Considera-
 ' tion, would give their Consent to establish such a
 ' Grievance by Law.