

‘ protect the Religion, Rights and Liberties of the Subject.

‘ It is true, that a popular Clamour did formerly induce this Government to try the Effects of farming the Revenues for one Year ; the Consequences of which were a Multiplicity of Law Suits between the Farmer and People, Contentions between him and the Navy and Army, frequent Alterations and Amendments of the Revenue Laws, many Remissions to the Farmer, in order to reconcile and accommodate such Disputes, and by the Arrival of a considerable Squadron of his Majesty’s Ships of War a material increase of the Revenue was lost to the Province, and finally the Money received from the Farmer fell short several Hundred Pounds of his Contract, and was considerably less than the Collection made by the Officers of Government in the preceding and succeeding Years.

‘ That where the Duty of Excise has been farmed in any of the neighbouring Colonies, the Laws prescribing the Mode of Collection have laid the Strefs thereof wholly on the Oath of the Retailer ; and such was the Frame of the Laws when the Duties were farmed here ; which Method the Assembly apprehended was so great a Temptation to Perjury, that they altered the whole Plan of them conformable to the Manner of collecting prescribed by the Laws of Excise in *Great Britain*, by which such Powers are given to the Government’s executive Officers of the Revenues, as would be dangerous to trust in the Hands of Persons, whose private and particular Interests would naturally lead them to a severe Execution of such Laws as are now in Force ; and the Council conceive no Law can be made to repeal the same, and be put into Execution till his Majesty’s Pleasure is first known ; and therefore they apprehend the Farmer cannot be restrained from Acts of Violence.

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