

and so gross and incredible in their character, might safely be allowed to pass unnoticed by us. But we find that these misrepresentations, however they may be despised here, yet, from constant reiteration, they are acquiring a degree of credence elsewhere; and, convinced that the best interests of the Colony, and the safety of Persons and Property, would be endangered by further silence, we deem it necessary, in support and defence of our dearest rights, not only to lay before your Majesty, as succinctly as possible, our own positive testimony of the absence of every just ground for the shameless allegations contained in those Petitions, but also to express our earnest hope that your Majesty will extend the relief prayed for by this Petition, and adopt such measures as will emancipate this Colony from the thralldom to which otherwise it must permanently be subjected. Of these Petitions, we beg leave to draw your Majesty's attention particularly to one addressed to your Majesty's revered predecessor, despatched from this Island in the month of March last, which not only holds out, in language far from equivocal, threats of personal violence, but contains charges of so serious a nature against the characters of the Mercantile body of this town, the Chief Justice, and the Grand and Special Jurors, that to allow them to pass unnoticed would be culpable. We now give to those charges the most unqualified contradiction, and we advisedly designate them as foul and impudent calumnies notoriously devoid of truth.

In this Island, the population of which may be estimated at 75,000, of whom about one half are Protestants, and the other half Roman Catholics, it may be proper to remind your Majesty that