

in the Reports on our table from the magistrates and merchants of the Province, and the complaints to the King's ministers by the merchants of London, the commerce and settlement of the Colony cannot advance in the course necessary to give it strength, for its own security, and to cover the two other Provinces, fortunately to all of them, committed to the wisdom and vigilance of the noble Lord, who is so well disposed and qualified to raise them to safety and prosperity, if their own cheerful co-operation shall not be wanting.

We lament, therefore, the loss of this Bill as embarrassing, if not defeating, the provisions expedient for the interests of the crown, as unfriendly to the commerce of the nation, as distressing to the loyalists who have fled to our borders for refuge, and have the most unexceptionable claim, at least, to legislative regulations for their comfort, as tending to distract the minds of the inhabitants with jealousies, to the reducing of the force of the Colony, and, as the consequence of all, the exposing of it to the operation of foreign principles, smoothing the way to an invasion. **AND THIS PROTEST WE MAKE** in vindication of ourselves to his Majesty, and his Representative, and with the sincerest desire to preserve the tranquillity of the Province, and the interests of every order of men in it, protestants and catholics, by all the means that may consist