

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

in time of War, whenever that shall happen, in giving any accounts by Letters of the public State and Conditions of Our Province under your Government; and you are further to give directions to all Masters of Ships, or other persons, to whom you may entrust your Letters, that they put such Letters into a Bag with a sufficient weight to sink the same immediately, in case of imminent danger from the Enemy: And you are also to let the Merchants and Planters know, how greatly it is for their Interest, that their Letters should not fall into the hands of the Enemy; and therefore that they should give like Orders to Masters of Ships in relation to their Letters; and you are further to advise all Masters of Ships, that they do sink all Letters, in case of danger, in the manner before mentioned.

49. And whereas the Merchants and Planters in Our Plantations in America, have in time of War, corresponded and traded with Our Enemies, and carried Intelligence to them, to the great prejudice and hazard of Our said Plantations; you are therefore by all possible methods to endeavor to hinder such Trade and Correspondence in time of War.

50. Whereas it is absolutely necessary, that We be exactly informed of the State of Defence of all Our Plantations in America, as well in relation to the Stores of War, that are in each Plantation, as to the Forts and Fortifications there, and what more may be necessary to be built for the Defence and Security of the same; you are as soon as possible to prepare an account thereof with relation to Our said Province in the most particular manner; and you are therein to express the present State of the Arms, Ammunition, and other Stores of War belonging to the said Province, either in public Magazines, or in the hands of private persons, together with the State of all places either already fortified, or that you judge necessary to be fortified for the Security of Our said Province; and you are to transmit the said accounts to Us by one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and also Duplicates thereof to Our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, for their information, and also a Duplicate thereof to Our Master General, or principal Officers of Our Ordinance, which accounts are to express the particulars of Ordinance, Carriages, Balls, Powder, and other sorts of Arms and Ammunition in Our public Stores, and so from time to time of what shall be sent to you, or bought with the public Money; and to specify the time of the disposal, and the occasion thereof; And you are half yearly to transmit a general account of the State of the Fortifications and Warlike Stores specified in the manner above mentioned.

51. And in case of any Distress of any other of Our Plantations, you shall, upon application of the respective Governors thereof unto you, assist them with what aid the condition and safety of Our Province under your Government can spare.

52. If any thing shall happen, which may be of advantage or security to Our Province under your Government, which is not herein, or by your Commission provided for, We do hereby allow unto you, with the advice and consent of Our Council, to take order for the present therein, giving