

of Our Intentions to make some Alteration in the usual Continuance or Duration of such Bills, which has been for these Years and to the End of the next Session, Altho' they never had been acquainted with any such Design from Us, neither had We given them Bills the second Reading; upon which We found the Resolutions, nor could any Arguments or Our Offer to continue all the temporary Laws in the same State and Condition they were, induce the Lower House to wind up the Bill for raising a Fund for Our common Defence.

This Behaviour of the Lower House fully convinced Us that their Wishes and Intentions were, rather to drop that only Provision for Our Defence upon any the most unreasonable Proviso whatsoever, and leave this Province exposed to an Enemy, than furnish Us with means to protect and defend it; But when We considered that the French now possess Settlements and Forts within much less than eight Days March from Our Frontiers, that Our Borders are not in the least guarded either with Fortification or Men, that We have no sufficient Laws to compel any Persons by exemplary Punishments to do Duty or act in Defence of Our Country, that the greater Part of the Inhabitants capable of bearing Arms, have not Arms or Weapons proper for Defence, and that the Arms now in the Province, and the Money in Bank arising from the Fund of Arms and Ammunition will scarcely be sufficient to furnish them with such proper Arms; And when We reflected on the Liberty and Indifference, which the Lower House had at this Meeting shew'd to the former Recommendation to amend Our Militia Act, and provide a proper Place for storing Our Arms and Ammunition; Their Willingness to discredit the Report of the late Conspiracy amongst Our Negroes, and their unexpected Readiness to answer for the Conduct of the Roman Catholics in this Province, in case of a French War: In such Circumstances We Your Majesty's most Loyal Subjects thought Our selves bound as well by Our Duty as Affection to the best of Kings, under whom We enjoy the Blessings of Our most happy Establishment both in Church and State, to make Use of any Authority which We might be invested with as a distinct Branch of the Legislature in order to prevail with the House to pass and put beyond a Doubt of Misusage a Bill for Defence of this part of Your Majesty's Dominion, which both Houses had agreed to by their Approbation from time to time in the

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