

His Lordship to this Bill tho in fact the Preservation of His Province & Tenants much depended on its being passed I will give you as particular an Account as possible of our Situation & the Circumstances that induced me to give it my Assent & hope I shall suggest some Arguments to you that may be urged in my Justification. You know that I have several times met but in vain pressed the Assembly to grant Supplies because His L^{dy} presumptively forbade me to let the Ordinary Funds be mentioned as one of the Funds for sinking the Money & to the Dispute concerning them you are no Stranger; therefore I shall only observe that they were mortgaged in the late War to repay some Money that was then granted towards carrying on the Expedition ag^t Carthage & the intended one against Canada & that they still remain mortgaged for the payment of that Money. The Assembly knew that His L^{dy} was averse to their being again appropriated otherwise than to his own private Use & therefore made a point of mortgaging them for a longer term. This Resolution of theirs & His L^{dy}'s Instructions above mentioned had occasioned five fruitless Sessions & much exasperated the People ag^t my L^{dy} & his Government. Upon the Receipt of Instructions last Winter to waive that matter I again convened the Assembly & laying before them the Plan of Operations concerted at New York once more exhorted them to exert themselves & grant large Supplies. As to the Quantum they seemed to comply with my Requisition by voting £40000 for the Services I had desired them to provide for; but as some of the Leading Men in the House were averse to giving more than a small Sum for the immediate Protection of our own Frontiers tho they could not directly oppose the Vote & Statements of a great Majority yet as it is a new & difficult Matter to raise large Sums in this Province; it was easy for them to get such Funds proposed & insisted on for raising the Money as would damn the Bill & they hoped that by such a Step a Clamour would be raised ag^t the Government or that the Sum voted might afterwards be reduced & made as small as themselves wished & desired. Accordingly when a Committee of Ways & Means was appointed & Orders given for framing a Bill among other exceptionable Matters a Land Tax was proposed by these Gent^l & that all His L^{dy}'s Mannors & Reserved Lands should be subjected to the Payment of it as his Tenants the Inhabitants Lands are was carried by a great Majority. You may be assured the flaming Patriots or rather inflaming Demagogues on this Occasion made great Use of the Arguments that have by the same Means been urged to Mr Morris; in short at the end of 7 weeks the Bill made its Appearance & was sent to the Upper House in such a Form as was expected & was by them returned again after some Days with a Negative & their Objections in writing to many Parts of it. A Conference was afterwards agreed on by both Houses & after a warm Engagement between the Gent^l that lasted above a week the principal Obstacles were removed & the Bill after