

A sufficient Number of Members to compose a Lower House of Assembly being convened, at the Stadt-House, Ordered, that Col. King and Mr. James Weems acquaint his Excellency the Governor, therewith: They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker, the Governor will be in the Council-Chamber presently.

Col. Hammond and Daniel Dulany, Esq; from the Upper House, acquaint Mr. Speaker, the Governor requires the Attendance of the Lower House of Assembly in the Council-Chamber.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and attended with the present Members of the Lower House of Assembly, went to the Council-Chamber, where his Excellency made the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

I SHOULD gladly have met you some Months sooner, but the daily Expectation of receiving an Answer from his Lordship to your Address, relating to his Quit-Rents, made me defer this Session so long, that the Winter was too far advanced to think of calling you together in so bad a Season.

Gentlemen of the Lower House,

Their Excellencies the Lords Justices, upon considering the uncertain State of Affairs in Europe, and the more than Probability of Great-Britain's being engaged in a French War, sent me some Months since repeated Orders to put the Militia of this Province into the best Condition possible, and to be upon our Guard against any Surprise that might be attempted upon us by the French, and by those Orders it is expected, that our Forces should not only be able to act defensively, but even attack our Enemies, if it be thought necessary.

The Advices we have very lately received from England, of his Majesty's British Dominions being threatened with an Invasion, confirm the Prudence of those Orders, and call upon us for the strongest Testimonies of our Duty and Affection to his Majesty's Person and Government; I must therefore in the most earnest Manner recommend to you two Measures absolutely requisite for Purposes so necessary to our own Preservation, and the Security of this Part of his Majesty's Dominions: One is, That a proper Law be thought of for making the Militia more serviceable, the present Acts being extremely defective; and the other, That a Provision for Arms and Ammunition be made in the usual Manner, and agreeable to the late Act for that Purpose, which expired some Years since, the Money raised by that Fund being very near, if not entirely exhausted. These are necessary Measures, even in peaceable Times, and if not taken at this Juncture, it will be impossible to answer the Expectations conceived of you, or give Proofs of that Duty to your Sovereign, and Affection to your Country, which every good Subject must think himself obliged to, by the most sacred Ties.

As for my own Part, my Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and sincere Wishes for the Welfare and Quiet of this Province, oblige me to declare, That unless a Law, for Supply of Arms and Ammunition, be made in the Manner I have mentioned, it cannot be expected this Province should be put into a Condition capable of defending itself, or that we can possibly avoid falling again into those unhappy Misunderstandings, which so long subsisted before my Arrival. I need not tell you, such a Situation of
Affairs,