

and Privileges inherent in them only: The like Rights and Privileges, we do insist, are constitutionally inherent in us, as the Representatives in Assembly of free *British* Subjects, and we hope we shall be allowed to exercise them without Controul, unless it can be shewn (which we cannot conceive) that our dependent State, upon our Mother Country (of which we are duly sensible, and in whose wise Determinations we shall always cheerfully acquiesce) necessarily deprives us of any Part of them. As we have not at present Time to look fully into the Matter, we will for Argument's Sake, suppose some of the old Journals may shew, some few Instances of what you assert in Relation to the Modes of Proceeding, for bringing about the Passage of Bills for raising Money for the Uses you mention; but we cannot by any Means allow, that a few Instances in the Times of the Infancy of the Province, should operate against a Right so essential to the Preservation of the Liberties and Properties of our Constituents. Those you mention, are not the only sad Instances of the Inattention of our Predecessors, in affording, and the Vigilance and Activity of the Government in laying hold of, Opportunities to encroach upon their Rights and Liberties. The Multiplicity of them afford a melancholy Retrospect, and call loudly upon us, to be as circumspect as possible, in order to guard against the like for the future. To an Inadvertency of the like Sort, little short of Infatuation, do your Honours owe your Existence as an Upper House; an Inadvertency which has brought upon us, all the Evils naturally flowing from the Introduction of a dependent Branch of Legislature into our Constitution; Evils, which the People of this Province most sensibly Feel, and which we fear their latest Posterity will have Cause to Lament.

It would seem, from the Terms of your Message, that your Honours represent the whole Sum of Money to be raised by our Bill, as applied to the Purpose only, of Levying, Paying, and Cloathing, Four Hundred Men, over and above the Eighty-four Recruits, required as our Quota, for compleating the regular Regiments on the Continent: How disingenuous is this Insinuation? Your Honours must have observed, that not much more than one Third of the Sum proposed to be raised by the Bill, is to be applied to those Purposes; and that the Rest is appropriated to the Discharge of large Sums of Money, advanced by the Crown, for the Payment of which, the Credit of the Province stood engaged by the Resolves of the late Lower Houses, and of this House, and to defraying other Expences, necessarily incurred for his Majesty's Service, and the Defence and Protection of our Frontier Inhabitants. From this Insinuation, we cannot help inferring; that you would be willing to bring the public Faith of the Province into Disgrace, and to suffer very many necessary Expences to remain undefrayed, whatever may be the fatal Consequences to the Public, or to Individuals, and more especially those, who have suffered so greedily by Quartering his Majesty's Regular Troops, or by actual Service on, and large Expences towards, the Security of our Western Frontiers. Your Honours are pleased to observe, that if all the real and personal Property in the Province were to be taxed, agreeable to our Plan, could it be carried into Execution, a Sum twice as great as what we have mentioned, would be raised even in one Year. We are at a Loss how to understand, from your Expression, whether you mean the whole Sum proposed to be raised by the Bill, or the particular Sum appropriated in the Bill, for the Levying, Paying, and Cloathing, the Number of Men to be raised: If you mean even the latter, we cannot avoid observing, how extremely your Sentiments are changed since *April* 1758, when you could not discover by what Rule or Principle, the Lower House could inter a Capital, which would raise forty-five Thousand Pounds in Three Years, by a Pound-Rate equal to that which you now are of Opinion, would raise Thirty thousand Pounds in less than One Year, and that not upon the whole Property, as was nearly the Case in the Bill of 1758: Your Honours at that Time thought, that diminishing the Ability of the Province, was a proper Method to encounter the Bill then before you; but now, when you imagine the same good Cause may be served by a contrary Supposition, you don't stick, at making it, however glaringly it may infer the Mutability of your Sentiments.

You are pleased to Question if our Bill can be carried into Execution, and to assert, that if it could, Discord and Confusion among the Inhabitants would be the Consequence: We can only say, that Plans of this Kind have not only been thought practicable, but found, by long Experience, to be eligible in our Mother Country, and most of the neighbouring Colonies, and we could wish your Honours would only give the People of this Province an Opportunity of making an Experiment of it. If it were really such, as you would represent it, our Constituents would soon disapprove it, and your Honours would no more be troubled about it; at present we judge it most agreeable to their common Interest, and we know it to be most suitable to their Inclinations; and therefore we think it more probable, that Discord and Confusion among the Inhabitants would ensue from your Refusal to assent to a Mode of Taxation so equitable and so much desired, than from the carrying into Execution the System we have adapted. To conclude your Message, your Honours recommend a Mode of Taxation for raising a Sum of Money, adequate to the Purposes of Levying, Cloathing and Paying, the Four Hundred Men proposed to be raised (by which you also implicitly recommend to desert the Public Faith of the Province, at least for the present) Time may perhaps afford a Mode of Taxation as hath been heretofore pursued in this Province: We doubt not but any such simple Mode of