

“ pendants upon the Mother-Country, as the Maintaining with a strict and steady Hand, the necessary
“ Powers, and just Prerogatives of the Crown, and the preferring an uniform and settled Principle of
“ Government, to an occasional Departure from it for temporary Convenience; every Day’s Experience
“ convinces us, that it is in vain to negotiate away his Majesty’s Prerogative, every new Concession becomes
“ the Foundation of some new Demand, and that, my Lords, of some new Dispute.” Convinced of the
Justice of their Lordships’ Observation, cautioned by their Censure of the Proprietors of that Province, for
suffering a popular Assembly to make exorbitant Acquisitions of Power, and encouraged by your Excellency’s
Example of Fortitude; in withstanding the unwarrantable Attempts of those Men among us, who are
grasping at Powers which do not belong to them, we shall on all Occasions, oppose their unjustifiable Mea-
sures, and as far as shall be in our Power, preserve for Posterity, our Constitution unaltered. With regard
to the latter Part of the Gentlemens Message, we beg Leave to observe, that finding the whole Expence of
raising, cloathing and paying the Number of Men, which they had voted, in Consequence of your Excel-
lency’s Recommendation, would not amount to one third Part of the Sum they proposed by their Bill to
raise, and knowing that the Necessity of raising a large Sum, is the principal Argument, those of them who
are fond of Innovations, urge to their Constituents, in Justification of their Conduct, and in Favour of such
a Bill, we could not help intimating to them, our Sentiments on that Head; we did indeed perceive, that by
the Bill they had appropriated a Part of the Money proposed to be raised, towards defraying some other Ex-
pences, viz. the Arrears due to the *Maryland Troops*, that, contrary as we have Reason to believe, to the
Inclination of the Lower House, served under Brigadier *Forbes*, in his Expedition against *Fort Du Quesne*;
and also the Arrears due, or which have been paid by his Majesty’s General to the Gentlemen that victualled
those Troops during the Winter before that Expedition; but as it was no Secret, to either that House or us,
that when it was evident the Troops were to expect no other Pay from the Assembly, besides naked Re-
solves, an Order was, through your Excellency’s humane and kind Offices, obtained from the Lords of the
Treasury, for the Payment of such Arrears, we could not see the Expediency of the Assembly’s now ap-
propriating the Sum of Fourteen Thousand Pounds for that Purpose, or view it in any other Light, than a
Contrivance to reserve so much Money for some particular Use, which they did not at present choose to men-
tion. As to the Appropriation of Six Thousand Pounds to pay the Militia, that your Excellency was pleas-
ed, by Virtue of the Power with which every Governor of this Province is invested, to order to the Frontiers
(some of them, at the Request of the then Lower House) for the Defence and Security of the Inhabitants
who were at that Time exposed to the Ravages of a savage Enemy; we are of Opinion, that such an Ap-
propriation is not to be allowed, nor such Militia paid, otherwise than is particularly directed by the Militia
Law; lest by consenting to their being paid in any other Manner, we should seem to countenance the very
extraordinary Resolves, which the Lower House presumed, in violation of Common-Sense, to make, when
in the Year 1758, they seemed to have nothing so much at Heart, as to render this Province entirely De-
fenceless, though your Excellency’s Firmness and Resolution, happily frustrated their Attempts. Besides the
two Sums we have mentioned, there was Three Thousand Pounds to be appropriated towards reimbursing
those Gentlemen who were put to some Expence, by providing Necessaries for such of the King’s Forces as
were in the Years 1756 and 1757, sent hither for Winter Quarters; but as there is still remaining in the
Loan-Office, and in the Agent’s Hands, more than Two Thousand Pounds of the Money that was granted
here in 1756, for his Majesty’s Service, the Persons, most of whom are Gentlemen of this City, who have
Claims on Account of those Troops being Quartered here, may have been satisfied, had an Act for granting
the Sum of Fifteen Thousand Pounds been now passed; since that Sum, as hath been already hinted, is con-
siderably more than would, on the Gentlemens own Calculation, have been sufficient to raise, cloath and
pay the Four Hundred Men, they proposed to keep up till the First of *April* next, and to raise the Eighty-
four Recruits, required as the Quota of this Province, for the Regular Regiments. As we do not know on
what Rule or Principle, the Gentlemen of the Lower House could make a Calculation of the Sum that
would be raised by such a Bill as they offered us, and must confess that for our own Parts, we are unable to
make any Estimate of the Value of all the real and personal Estate in the Province, we shall only observe
with respect to such Part of their Message, that though we are inclined to believe, that if the Assessors were
to rate at it’s full Value, all the Property subjected by that Bill to a Tax, much more than even the whole
Sum proposed to be levied, might be raised in one Year, yet as so great a Latitude is left to the Discretion,
and to the Partiality of the Assessors, it might not be raised in several Years, should they in their Valuations,
follow the Practice of Assessors in a neighbouring Government. This great Uncertainty, we cannot but con-
sider as a very material Objection to the Plan of the Bill, as we are confident, leaving the Assessors so much
at large, would create ill Blood, and Confusion among the Inhabitants, already, on Account of the Proposal of
such a Bill, divided into Parties; and in such a Situation of Things, it would, we think, have been carrying
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