

the Supply Bill which I will get transcribed time enough to transmit it herewith. In my Letter of the 5th Inst I informed you that the Two Houses had agreed on a Conference & that I apprehended there were too many Exceptionable Clauses in the Bill to be ever got over, however after a warm Engagement between the Conferees which lasted more than a Week the Lower House amended the Parts that had been principally objected to & left no very exceptionable Clauses unless it be that which subjects His Ldp's Mannours & other demised Lands to the Payment of the Land Tax which as you will see is made one of the Funds for sinking the Money, & unless that Clause also be thought to deserve such an Epithet which makes the Lands of Roman Catholicks liable to the Payment of a double Tax as is done by the Statutes of England. A Day or two before the Bill was sent to the Upper House there was a Petition left for me at the Council Chamber subscribed by some of the principal Roman Catholicks in the Country desiring me to dissent to the Bill (which they said lay before me) because it imposed a double Tax on the Lands of all Persons of their Persuasion. I could not help thinking that this Step was a little extraordinary as they had heard & known that the Lower House had or were about to insert such a Clause in the Supply Bill at least 8 weeks before, & had never put a Petition into that House nor desired to be heard against the Bill there, tho they had been advised so to do, had they followed such Advice their Application afterwards to the Superiour Branches of the Legislature would have been regular & decent, & no more than would have been expected from them, but to pay no manner of Regard to that Branch of the Legislature where the Bill was taking its Rise, & knowing it would be thought a little irregular for the Upper House to offer Amendments to a Money Bill to make no Objection before it came before them, & then to shew that they relied on the Governor to dissent to the Bill, was proceeding in such a manner as could only tend to give Clamorous & Factious people an Occasion of representing the Governor & Council as Favourers of Popery, which surely is a Charge that they nor any Friends to the Govern^t should at such a time give the least Room for. I send you a Copy of the Petition abovementioned & of the answer that was by my Order given thereto, & tho I would have prevented such a Taxation as they complain of had it been possible yet I do not think that the Injustice of it is so great as they would represent it, nor is such as ought in my Opinion to be set in Competition with the Lives of hundreds or perhaps with the preservation of the whole Province. It might be observed that they are & have been for a long time excused from attending Musters as Militia (a Priveledge which they enjoy in common with the

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