

which We passed, and was immediately enacted into a Law; Lib. C. B.
But they at the same time came to a surprizing Resolution, not to pass the Other Bill for Defence of the Province, which had been agreed to by the Conferees of Both Houses, until We should return to their House some Bills (which they had before sent up) with such Duration as the Lower House was pleased to dictate to Us: And for a Colour to this unprecedented Behaviour, They pretended to have Apprehensions of Our Intentions to make some Alteration in the usual Continuance or Duration of such Bills, which then was for Three Years and to the End of the next Session, Altho' they never had been acquainted with any such Design from Us, neither had We given those Bills the second Reading; upon which We form Our Resolutions, nor could any Arguments or Our Offer to continue all the temporary Laws in the same State and Condition they were, induce the Lower House to send up the Bill for raising a Fund for Our Common Defence. p. 113

This Behaviour of the Lower House fully convinced Us that their Wishes and Intentions were rather to drop that only Provision for Our Defence upon any the most unreasonable Pretence whatever, and leave this Province exposed to an Enemy, than furnish us with means to protect and defend it; But when We considered that the French now possess Settlements and Forts within much less than Eight Days March from Our Frontiers, that Our Borders are not in the least guarded either with Fortification or Men, that We have no sufficient Laws to compel any Persons by exemplary Punishments to do Duty or act in Defence of Our Country, That the greatest Part of Our Inhabitants Capable of bearing Arms, have not Arms or Weapons proper for Defence, and that the arms now in the Province, and the Money in Bank arising from the Fund of Arms and Ammunition will scarcely be sufficient to furnish them with such proper Arms; And when We reflected on the Coolness and Indifferency, which the Lower House had at this Meeting shewed to the Governors Recommendacōn to amend Our Militia Act, and provide a proper Place for securing Our Arms and Ammunition; Their Willingness to discredit the Belief of the late Conspiracy amongst Our Negroes, and their unexpected Readiness to answer for the Conduct of the Roman Catholicks in this Province, in Case of a French War: In such Circumstances We Your Majesty's most Loyal Subjects thought Ourselves bound as well by Our Duty as Affection to the best of Kings, under whom We enjoy the Blessings of Our most happy Establishment both in Church and State, to make Use of any Authority which We might be invested with as a distinct Branch of the Legislature in order to prevail with the Lower house to for-