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desired us to read over again) “ that you did not propose the Bill for Arms &c generally for any Number of years with a fixed Determination, but only for such a Term as the present Juncture may require ” But should your own Interpretation be put on these Words, you have not urged One Argument or alledged One Reason to shew, that the Necessity of the present Juncture of Affairs does not require the Continuance of nine years, nor indeed can you with any Consistency to your former Admission make any pretence against the Length of Time, for by the above Words extracted from your former Message, you agree with us, “ that it is uncertain how long War with Spain will continue, or how soon Another with France may begin ” And if We are in such a dangerous State of Uncertainty, how can the Term of Nine years be said to be too long for a Fund, which does not raise 300£ Sterl p Annum clear of Deductions for Arms &c for Defence of the Province: Although, Gentlemen, you despair of the Goodness of any Arguments to convince us, that the Necessity of the present Juncture cannot require Nine years Continuance, yet as you found, by offering to Our Choice the Two Alternatives, you could draw Us from Our Resolution of adhering to the next Session, you now expect by throwing the Bait (as you imagine) of Six Pence or any lesser Sum (Greater we suppose you meant) for Two years in our Way, we shall surely swallow it: But we plainly tell you we cannot accept what you mention for many Reasons: In the first Place as there ought to be a Consistency observed in the Behaviour of the several Branches of the Legislature, we cannot think but, that, tho from our dutiful Regard to his Majestys immediate Service in raising Forces, we were prevail’d with to recede from our first Resolution and accept one of your Alternatives, yet if we should now relinquish our Choice we might be thought too unstable in our proceedings, and never know where to stop In the next place how can we be sure you are in earnest? We thought the greatest Reliance might have been had on your Compliance, without the least Hesitation, to any choice we should make of the Alternatives But we are taught by Experience not to be too credulous, but to persist in what we have so reasonably fixed on: And there is a further (and of it self) a sufficient Motive, why we should not shorten the nine years by any Abatement whatever, and that is, the certain Testimony you have given us at the last, and this Meeting of the Assembly, and now again by your new Offer of Two Years, that your only aim is to procure, upon any Terms, that Law for Arms, &c^a for the Defence of this province to be totally dropt; we are so fully perswaded of This, that we cannot doubt you might be induced to give any greater Sum whatsoever, or lay any greater Load on the People, so as you could compass that Design; This Earnestness of yours must be a very great Surprize to every one, since the Money appropriated to be raised by that Act