

ported will be more Capable of Judging what further may be wanting for the Safety of the Province and so to make suitable Provision for the same

U. H. J.  
Calvert  
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We cannot help observing that the Militia Laws now in being give very large Powers to many of the Officers and therefore We should be unwilling to consent to any thing that might in any manner enlarge that Power, unless the Safety of the Country at any particular Juncture required it, Nevertheless We assure your Excellency we shall deliberately consider any Proposition you shall make for the better distribution and Security of the Provincial Arms and Ammunition, and give any Advice and Assistance in that Affair as We shall think agreeable to your Excellency and Conducive to the Welfare of the Province. p. 103

Signed by Order and on Behalf of the House  
Philip Hammond, Speaker

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly

June 2

I have considered your Address in Answer to my Message of the 13<sup>th</sup> of last month, relating to our Arms and Ammunition, and could have wished to have had your Advice and Assistance in the Points I proposed to you, the security of the Arms and Ammunition at present in the Province being as necessary to be thought of as the disposal of any farther Supply that may be expected

However since you assure me you will deliberately consider of any Proposition I shall make for the Distribution of the Provincial Arms and Ammunition, and give such Advice and Assistance in the Affair as you think conducive to the Welfare of the Province, I shall make no Scruple of telling you my opinion very candidly and freely; which is that the Safety of the Country can never be sufficiently provided for without one good Magazine at least, of such Strength as may effectually secure Our Arms and Ammunition from whence they may be distributed from time to time as our occasions require, and this opinion I believe you will find Conformable to Instructions heretofore sent from the Crown to former Governors of this Province

There is another thing Gentlemen, which I must recommend to your serious Consideration, and that is the State of Our Militia; upon the most carefull Perusall of our Laws for the Regulation of it I cannot find any sufficient Obligation upon either Officers or private men to take the Field, and behave as they ought to do in defence of their Country against an Invading Enemy.

I need not say anything of the Power of Our Enemies; it being but too common to hear that Subject enlarged upon, even by such Gentlemen as are the most averse to our making any manner of Preparation for our defence against them, but I hope all hearty