

Excellency our Thanks for your Speech at the Opening of this Session.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 51  
March 25

With the greatest Pleasure we embrace the Opportunity you have now afforded us, of Congratulating you on the many and extraordinary Successes, which, by the Favour of Divine Providence, have attended his Majesty's Fleets and Armies, throughout the Course of the last Year, in whatever Part of the World employed; and which, it might reasonably be hoped, would have inclined his Majesty's Enemies to Peace, upon Terms consistent with the Honour and Dignity of his Crown, and securitative of the Interests of all his Subjects: But as that great and desirable End has not been obtained, and the French King, instigated by his boundless Ambition, seems determined by fresh and vigorous Efforts, to prosecute his hostile Views; we cannot but gratefully acknowledge the vigilant Care of our most gracious Sovereign, in commanding General Amherst to proceed in the Reduction of Canada; in Order, as well to render the Designs of his Enemies abortive, as to improve the great and important Advantages gained the last Campaign in North-America.

The Letters your Excellency has been pleased to lay before us, shall immediately be taken into Consideration; and we hope our Proceedings thereupon will shew, as we flatter ourselves our Proceedings always have done, that whatever Censure upon the Behaviour of this Province, the unhappy Issue of the late Sessions may have given Room for, it was not in the least owing to any Want in Us, of Loyalty, Affection, or Gratitude to our most gracious Sovereign, the best of Kings.

We observe your Excellency's pathetic and particular Admonition to us, to avoid, with Caution, the Rock on which we have heretofore split; and as you have thought proper to communicate to us the Opinion of his Majesty's Attorney-General, (tho' given, as we presume, only as private Counsel to the Lord Proprietary), relative to the two Bills offered by us to the Upper House, for raising Supplies, being desirous to pay it all due Regard, we cannot but wish that Opinion had been accompanied with the State of the Case upon which it was founded; especially as we are not at present convinced, that the Gentlemen of the Upper House could not have Assented to those Bills without a Breach of their Duty, and a Violation of our Constitution: And we hope, the Bill we shall now Frame for raising Supplies for his Majesty's Service, will be consistent with the Liberties and Privileges of British Subjects, and justifiable upon the Principles of our Constitution, and consequently demonstrate, that the Representatives of his Majesty's faithful and loyal Subjects of this Province, are animated with the same laudable Spirit, which hath, since the Beginning of this War, so remarkably excited their Fellow-Subjects to exert their most vigorous Efforts.