

own Character and Conduct, which, I flatter myself, I shall be able to do in so clear and intelligible a Manner, as will give entire Satisfaction, not only to every honest and sensible Gentleman in your House, but also in the whole Province.

In the first Place, you confess yourselves at a Loss to know certainly the Motives that induced me to the *unprecedented Prorogation*, as you are pleased to term it, of the last Assembly, which, I must own, surprizes me the more, as I am not Master enough of the *English* Language to express myself more clearly to you upon that head, than I have already done, without descending to particulars, of which it is not possible that you can be ignorant, nor can I conceive how I could have acted otherwise than I did, consistently with the Good and Welfare of the Province.

I was informed by an Address from the Upper House, that such a Misunderstanding had happened between That and the late Lower House, as had put a Stop to all Publick Business, and even to all Intercourse by Messages: What could be done in such Circumstances? If the Assembly had continued Sitting, would not that have occasioned a heavy Charge to the Country, without the least Possibility of deriving any Advantage from it? Was there any Hopes or Probability of a Reconciliation? Is it not very probable that the Continuance of the Sitting of that Assembly would have increased and aggravated the Differences which then subsisted? Could the Lower House, however well disposed and inclined they might have been, have carried on the Business of the Country without the Concurrence of the Upper? This is too wild and extravagant to be even so much as imagined.

A Dissolution or Prorogation being then absolutely necessary, the latter was made use of in such a Manner as the then Situation of Affairs would admit of, *viz.* by Proclamation, and indeed no other Course could be then taken; I could not have sent to the Lower House for their Attendance, by any Member of the Upper, it being, as they thought, inconsistent with their Dignity, to carry any Message, till Reparation was made for the Affront they apprehended they had received: If I had sent by the Clerk of the Upper House, I might have given Offence to the Lower, which I was desirous to avoid as much as lay in my Power; and these, I can truly say, were the only Motives of my acting as I did: If I had called the same Assembly together again, the same Dispute must have subsisted, which made the Dissolution as necessary as the Prorogation.