

him at our last Meeting, but his Lordship having been pleased to acquaint me, by the last Letter I have received from him, that he had not heard any thing of the said Address, I was loath to pass over the usual Time of our Meeting in Assembly, being very well satisfied, that the true Interest of the Province can never be pursued but by a good Agreement between the several Parts of the Legislature, which I shall always endeavour to cultivate as much as lies in my Power, by frequently calling you together, and making all such reasonable Compliances with your Desires, as are consistent with the Trust reposed in me by his Majesty, and the Lord Proprietor.

And I must earnestly recommend Temper and Moderation on your Parts, that all Heats and Animosities may be avoided as much as possible: This is necessary to judge rightly in the most trivial Affairs of Life, and much more so in those of Weight and Moment under our Consideration in a Legislative Capacity, the making of Laws, for the real Advantage of those who are to be bound by them, being a Task not easily to be performed, even by Men of the very best Understandings, without a reasonable Degree of Thought and Attention.

If we have the misfortune to differ in Opinion upon any Point, it is cool and temperate Reasoning only that can bring us to a right Understanding, and indeed with *this* I cannot well conceive how any of our Differences should prove irreconcilable; for the Interest of the Proprietor depends so plainly and evidently upon the Prosperity of the Province, that it is impossible for any Man of Understanding to imagine him not to have it sincerely at Heart: On the other hand, as the Safety of the People and the Security of their Property are owing to the Protection of the Government, it is certainly their Interest, as well as Duty, to give it a reasonable and proper Support: And I hope that the Duties appropriated to this Use, and to the purchasing of Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of the Province, will be thought by all candid and reasonable Men no more than sufficient for the Purposes they are intended, even in Times of the profoundest Peace. At present the Situation of our Affairs certainly require something further from us for our own necessary Defence.

There is no need of exaggerating the Danger we lately escaped from the horrid Conspiracy of our Negroes, it being very certain, if they had carried their Design into Execution, we should have been put to the cruel Necessity of Defending our own Lives at the Expence of many of theirs, to the entire Ruin of Numbers of particular Families, and perhaps of the Province in general. And indeed the Danger we must of course be exposed to, from so large a Body of Slaves, will always be very great, but particularly