

to deprive the Country of the Fund, that has subsisted for so many Years, for Purchasing Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of the Province, at this Time especially, when it is so necessary for all his Majesty's Colonies in America, to put themselves into such a Condition, as may not only enable them to Defend themselves, if they should be Attacked, but to assist their Neighbours in the like unhappy Circumstances.

In such a Conjuncture it would certainly be much more proper to increase the abovementioned Fund than to destroy it, our Loyalty and Duty to his Majesty in such Times of general Danger, being much better expressed by our Actions, than by the most high sounding Words, which it is well known the Enemies of his Majesty's Government in all his Dominions are very often more lavish of, than his most faithful Subjects, whose true Loyalty and Affection prompt them to something more real and substantial.

As to what you say in your Message to the Upper House, "That you cannot well see, how those who have had the Disposition of the Money hitherto raised to that Use can Acquit themselves for not applying it to the Purpose for which it was raised."

"And that besides the Money arising from this Duty now in Bank, there remains Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds Sterling unaccounted for in any manner; And that the Proprietor has possessed himself of a considerable Annual Sum, amounting to at least Two Thousand Two Hundred Pounds Sterling, arising on the Shipping Trading into, and Staple Export of this Province, without any Law for Levying the same:" I cannot help saying, that these are such low and mean Aspersions, and so absolutely without the least Foundation. that they must either be allowed to manifest a strong Inclination to throw Dirt, or a Desire to give some colour to the Violence of your Proceedings, which you cannot but already begin to see have given Offence to many of the best and wisest Men in the Province, who, I am perswaded, will be daily more and more convinced, that violent personal Malice and Hatred have been stronger Motives to your said Proceedings, than any true Protestant English Spirit for the Good of your Country.

But whatever Considerations may have been the Cause of your present Conduct, I shall never be brought to do any thing on my Part inconsistent with that Duty which I owe to his Majesty, and which obliges me in my present Station to do every thing that lies in my Power for his Majesty's Honour, and for the Safety and Defence of this Part of his Majesty's Dominions.

I therefore have thought it proper, by the unanimous Advice of his Lordship's