

refused a Tax for Arms when there was no appearance of Danger, and when there was Money in Bank unapplied sufficient for the then present Exigence, that therefore they would do the same when Danger approaches or Money is wanting.

The meaning of what you say concerning Roman Catholicks, or Persons nearly attached to their Interests, we acknowledge ourselves at a Loss to apprehend, we would hope that it is not intended to insinuate as if any of us were either Roman Catholicks, or attached to their Interest, and if it should, we despise the Imputation, since we are well convinced that our Actions as well at this time as in former Assemblies, and our Conduct in Private Life will sufficiently testify the Contrary. And altho' his Lordship, as well as several of your Honours, has many Relations in the Country of that Profession, and has greatly Intrusted his private Affairs in the Hands of Gentlemen of the Romish Communion, yet that never raised in us any Jealousy of his Lordship, being well assured that the few of those People here amongst us, have it neither in their Power or Inclination to disturb the Peace or Safety of the Province.

Your Proposal to dispatch a Bill for encouragement of his Majesty's Levies out of the Monies arising from the Fund of Arms and Ammunition, when in the former part of your Message you tell us, that perhaps the same Fund is not more than sufficient to provide such necessary Arms and Ammunition, as a prudent Caution in times of Peace (even against such like Conspiracies as have lately happened among our Negroes) might require, seems to us a little Contradictory, and not altogether to testify that unfeigned Zeal so often boasted of in several parts of your Message, for his Majesty's Service.

And notwithstanding the great Handle that has been made and the Noise industriously spread over the Province about our Negroes, we must say, that from all the Enquiry we have been able to make, we never could discover any thing which might in any manner be presumed to endanger the Peace or Welfare of this Province, especially since the very few who dar'd to think of any such Attempt, by the prudent Care of the Government, have been already Punished and Suppressed.

Signed *per* Order, *M. Macnemara*, Cl. Lo. Ho.

Sent to the Upper House by *William Stoughton*, Esq; and Maj. *Sprigg*.

Ordered and Resolved, That the Honourable Speaker, Mr. *James Calder*, Dr. *Charles Carroll*, Mr. *Vachel Denton*, Maj. *Edward Sprigg*, Mr. *Turnor Wootton*, Mr. *Osborn Sprigg*, Mr. *John Magruder*, and Mr. *Henry Hall*, Members of this House, or any One of them, do prepare with all possible Dispatch, Authenticated Copies of all such Records and