

an Answer, but at present this Art of dealing in Generals, renders your Expressions too mysterious for our Capacities.

We are now come to the only thing you have hitherto agreed with us in, which is, our Assertion of the ‘uncertainty how long War with *Spain* will continue, or how soon another with *France*, may begin if not already Proclaimed,’ and therefore you have declared yourselves ready to agree either to a double or larger Sum for the Defence of the Province, or to a longer time, so as there may be a fixed time of Determination: Our desires are too strong that his Majesty’s Expectations of raising Forces in this Province for his Service may not be disappointed, to overlook these alternative Offers from your House, nor can we now mistake each other, for your Resolution is only to have a fixed time of Determination, and ours to have a proper Provision for the necessary Defence of the Province; but as we are desirous to make this Bill as easy as may be to the People, and therefore unwilling to double or further increase the Duty as you propose, we rather chuse to close with you upon the alternative of lengthening the Time, for which Purpose we propose the reviving the Act for Arms, &c. for Nine Years, so that you may have your wished for fixed Determination of this Act; and we hope the impartial World will be satisfied that our Views are not inconsistent with the Defence of the Province or his Majesty’s Service; for we plainly tell you, that we are only influenced to this acceptance of your Offer, by an expectation that you will dispatch a Bill to encourage the raising Forces for his Majesty’s Service either agreeable to our Plan, or any other which may be judged most effectual for the Purpose, and shall be desirous of settling by Conference or otherwise any Difficulties or Objections which may arise on such a Bill.

We confess it is very extraordinary and what would not meet Credit from ourselves upon less Proof than the printed Votes of the Lower House of Assembly, ‘That the Representatives of a People under the *British* Government, would not upon the least appearance of Danger exert themselves to the utmost for the Preservation of their Rights,’ and that your Behaviour at the last Meeting in *May* 1739, was not very different from this, your own printed Votes will shew, where it appears, that you first voted the Bill for Arms, &c. for the Defence of the Province, to continue for Three Years, &c. and in the very next Moment you voted the Bill should not Pass at all, nor could the Upper House then prevail with you to revive that Act, and pray were we not then under continual apprehensions of a dangerous War? Or had we Arms or Money sufficient for such Circumstances of Time? It is true, there was some Money unapplied, and it is necessary it should be always so, to supply any sudden emergent