

whether this Bill ought to be continued to a determined Time, or to the end of the next Session, Have you not by the above Words of your Message expressly declared your readiness to agree to either of the Alternatives so that the Bill might have a fixed Time of Determination, Is there any time mentioned to which you limited our choice of a longer Time; no *Gentlemen*, the only Condition you then insisted upon with regard to the Continuance of the Bill, was a fixed determined Time, and now, after that we have closed with you upon your own Proposal, and named Nine Years for a Continuance, you tell us (even against the very Face of the Message, which you desired us to Read over again) ‘ That you did not propose the Bill for Arms, &c. generally for any Number of Years with a fixed Determination, but only for such a Term as the Necessity of the present Juncture may require;’ But should your own Interpretation be put on these Words, you have not urged one Argument, or alledged one Reason to shew, that the Necessity of the present Juncture of Affairs does not require the Continuance of Nine Years, nor indeed can you with any Consistency to your former Admission, make any Pretence against the Length of Time, for by the above Words extracted from your former Message, you agree with us, “ That it is uncertain how long War with *Spain* will continue, or how soon another with *France* may begin;” And if we are in such a dangerous state of Uncertainty, how can the Term of Nine Years be said to be too long for a Fund, which does not raise 300 l. Sterling *per Annum* clear of Deductions for Arms, &c. for Defence of the Province: Altho’, *Gentlemen*, you despair of the Goodness of any Arguments to convince us, that the Necessity of the present Juncture cannot require Nine Years continuance; yet as you found by offering to our Choice the Two Alternatives, you could draw us from our Resolution of adhering to the next Session, you now expect, by throwing the Bait (as you imagine) of *Six pence*, or *any lesser Sum* (Greater we suppose you meant) for Two Years in our Way, we shall surely swallow it: But we plainly tell you, we cannot accept what you mention, for many Reasons: In the first Place, as there ought to be a Consistency observed in the Behaviour of the several Branches of the Legislature, we cannot think, but, that, tho’ from our dutiful Regard to his Majesty’s immediate Service in raising Forces, we were prevailed with to recede from our first Resolution and accept one of your alternatives, yet if we should now relinquish our Choice, we might be thought too unstable in our Proceedings, and never know where to stop: In the next Place, how can we be sure you are in earnest? We thought the greatest Reliance might have been had on your Compliance, without the least *Hesitation*, to any Choice we should make of the Alternatives;

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