

not even to be presumed but that every House of Delegates will continue from time to time so to do, when they shall be in the like or worse Circumstances, or their own Preservation require it.

We are further Ordered again to renew to you the Offer made in our Message of the 17th Instant, which if you refuse, we are required to desist from any further Conference on the Bill for Arms and Ammunition.

The Conferrees of the Upper House desire to withdraw to take the Advice of their House thereon.

And the Conferrees Adjourn until to Morrow Morning.

Thursday Morning, May 22. The Conferrees met according to Adjournment.

The Conferrees of the Upper House deliver themselves in the following manner :

Gentlemen, We have it Charge from our House to say in Answer to what you communicated to us yesterday, on the subject of the Act for Arms, &c. and your Reasons for not agreeing to our Choice of your Alternative for Nine Years, That the Right you claim of not being obliged to give particular Reasons for your Resolutions on Money Bills, is not a less Privilege of our House on any Bill whatever, and therefore they hope you will not think it strange, whenever they should think fit to assert or insist upon it.

That so much has been already said in their Messages with relation to your two Alternatives, and the Choice they have made, that they think there is no occasion to add any thing further, only this, that although they never questioned the Right of your House in Judging of the Necessity of raising Money, the Quantity of Money to be applied to that Necessity, and the Time of Continuance of that Bill, yet that our House has an equal Right of Judging on passing or not passing any Bill whatsoever.

That our House has great Pleasure to find, that their often inculcating the Necessity of extraordinary Armaments at this Juncture, from our being in a War with Spain, the danger of being Attacked by some French Colonies, the Insurrection of Negroes, and evil Dispositions of Papists, has had at last some good Effect on your Resolutions for Increasing the Sum for Arms, &c. at such a particular Time of Danger.

That your House seems to think by not Passing the Act for Arms, &c. at the last Meeting, that a Rumour of War ought not to prevail with them to make Preparations for a Posture of Defence, and that a Seven Years Duty in Bank of 300 l. Sterling per Annum, and our Arms in the Country (both which together could not Arm the Province in a proper Manner against an Invasion) will justify the Representatives of a People in letting a Bill for Defence of the Province drop till an actual War breaks

breaks