

Breaks out, or the Country may be in worse Circumstances, by which our House presumes your House must mean, when the Enemy may be amongst us; in such Worse Circumstances no doubt, *Gentlemen*, it would be a very proper Time for an Assembly to Meet and make an Act to raise Money a Year afterwards for our Defence.

We have it further in Command from our House to acquaint you, that although you have not vouchsafed to use one Argument to satisfy our House of the unreasonableness, in the present uncertain Situation of Affairs, of the Length of Nine Years which they had Chosen on your Alternative, yet, as the principal Heads of a Bill for Encouragement of raising Forces for his Majesty's Service, have been agreed to in this Conference, and as the Members of our House have nothing so much at Heart as a sincere Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and a determined Resolution to shew it on every Occasion; Therefore on these Considerations, and being very desirous to cultivate and preserve amongst the several Branches of the Legislature a mutual Harmony and good Understanding, by every Condescension that is not very unreasonable, and by forwarding any Bill that may be agreeable to each other, our House will agree to a Bill for laying a Duty of *Six Pence* per Hoghead for Arms, &c. for Defence of the Province for a determined Time of Three Years, and in every other respect conformable to the present Act; But we offer to your Consideration, whether it may not be more for the Ease of the People to continue the present Act for Six Years, rather than lay an additional Load on Trade for this Purpose.

The Conferrees of the Lower House desire to withdraw and Advise their House with what was delivered as above.

The Conferrees Adjourn until the Afternoon.

In the Afternoon the Conferrees met again.

The Conferrees of the Lower House deliver themselves in the following manner, *viz.*

The Conferrees of the Lower House propose, that the Treasurers shall with the Money to be raised, send for the Arms and Ammunition by direction from the Governor and Council, and that the Treasurers shall at every General Assembly lay before both Houses Accounts of the Arms so Purchased and Money Received.

That the Armourer by the Bill be obliged to lay also an Account upon Oath before every General Assembly of what Arms and Ammunition he shall from time to time receive, and how they are delivered out.

That the Commission of *Eight per Cent* by the present Act to the Naval Officers be reduced to some less Sum to be agreed upon.

To which the Conferrees of the Upper House desire to withdraw to acquaint their House therewith.