

Publick Affairs, and as we look on the Bill for raising a Fund for Defence of this Province to be of the utmost importance at this Juncture, and the Bill for encouragement of Levies for his Majesty's Service to be a reasonable and dutiful Testimony of our Loyalty to his Majesty; we still think the Decency and Duty we owe to his Majesty, and the Safety of the Province, ought to give those Bills (which had employed both Houses above a Month before they could agree to the Heads of them) the first Place in our Consultations, although the Lower House should think fit, contrary to the usual Practice in Parliament, to offer some other Bills before them for the Governor's Fiat.

It was this Opinion of the Precedency due to Bills of this Nature, which occasioned our deferring the Consideration of your Bills now on our Table, until we should receive and give a Passage to those two Bills; but we must candidly acknowlege, that your abovementioned Message has given us another, and invincible Reason against our Passing any of your Bills now on our Table before we have from you the Bill for Arms, &c.

With very great Concern, we perceive it hardly possible for us to come to any amicable and friendly Agreement with your House, as it is our sincere Inclination to do: Let us make never so many Concessions, new Demands are still made upon us, in Proportion to the Readiness we shew in complying with your Desires; of this, your present Message is a most flagrant and demonstrative Proof; we have been now Five Weeks contending about the Bill that is the Subject of it, which is agreed on all Hands necessary to be continued in some Shape or other, considering the dangerous Situation of our Affairs; your first Objection was to the Clause for the Continuance of it to the next Session of Assembly, which you declared contrary to the very Frame of our Constitution, since by such a Clause any temporary Law might be made Perpetual by any one Part of the Legislature, but to shew your Inclination in this time of an actual War with *Spain* and impending one with *France*, you offered us the two Alternatives, either of a longer Time or a larger Sum, we chose one, you then shew to the other, which you again offered us as your final Resolution; upon this, to shew our desire to agree with you, we came once more into your Terms, and in a Conference settled the Heads of this Bill, together with that for inlisting Men for his Majesty's Service, but after all this, now comes your Message declaring your Resolution not to send up the Bill for Arms, &c. for Defence of the Province.

But your Self-Conviction of what you ought to do in Consequence of the Agreement by the Conferers of both Houses, has put you under a

necessity