

necessity of offering at some Excuse, for not sending to our House a Bill conformable to what the Conferees agreed, in relation to the Fund for Defence of the Province; and this Excuse is founded on " your too well grounded (as you say) Apprehensions of our Design to Pass your Bills now in our House, with Durations to a Day certain only, and not to the end of a Session as usual," be pleased, *Gentlemen*, to permit us to ask, whether this House has ever acquainted you with such a Design? Whether any Designs or Actions ought to be imputed by one House to another, in the course of Parliamentary Proceedings, before such Designs or Actions are avowed by either House? But even suppose you had the best Grounds imaginable for your Apprehensions, can they justify you in keeping back a Bill which was in all its Parts settled and agreed to not only by the Conferees, but even Sanctioned from time to time, by the Resolutions and Concurrence of both Houses, signified at the Conference by the Conferees of each House? And is it not very extraordinary that you not only foretel (without any Information from our House) what our Resolutions will be on the second Reading of your Bills, but you Act and Resolve in the same manner as you think you would, if we had already done what you apprehend? Indeed *Gentlemen*, the Reason you give for your present Conduct, is so extraordinary, that we cannot imagine you in earnest; but if you are, such Dispositions must destroy all Confidence between the several Branches of the Legislature, and have Effects very contrary to the good Ends proposed and expected from the meeting of Assemblies.

As to the Duration, which you seem to be so much apprehensive of, we hope we need only say, that it will be time enough for us to justify such a Duration, whenever we think fit to insist on it; which we shall not do, unless we are satisfied of its Expediency and Reasonableness.

Since the Importance of the Bill for Arms, &c. for Defence of the Province, since " our frequent inculcating the necessity of the extraordinary Armament at this Juncture, (which your Conferees acknowledged, had influenced you to increase the Sum for Arms, &c.) from our being in a War with *Spain*, from the probability of one with *France*, the danger of being attacked by some French Colonies within a few Days March of our Frontiers, the Insurrection of Negroes, and the evil dispositions of Papists," and since the Concurrence of your Conferees, and even of your House to every part of such a Bill, cannot convince you of the indispensable Obligation you are under to forward that Bill immediately up to our House; but on the contrary you seem resolved to disregard every Consequence, rather than not avoid the Duration you are apprehensive