

apprehensive may be put to some other Laws, we must say on our Parts that your Wishes plainly appear, that we should be rather without a Session, or any Fund for Arms, &c. for our Defence, than to have it increased to the Sum agreed by the Conferrees; and therefore, *Gentlemen*, we dare not before you send up the Bill for Arms, &c. take one Step in the Passage of any of the Bills now in our House, lest it might tend to leave us at these dangerous Times without some Fund for our Defence; and in case you will not let us have a Bill for Arms, &c. agreeable to the Conferrees Report, we are perswaded we shall in a much more sincere manner acquit ourselves as Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, by not passing the Bill for encouragement of Forces or any other Bill, and by that Means continue still on Foot the present Act for Arms, &c. than by giving a Passage to that or any other Bill, leave the Province without any Fund to provide Arms and Ammunition for it's Defence.

We are really, *Gentlemen*, unacquainted with the many other Reasons, which (you say) govern you in this Matter, unless they be such, as determine you at all Events to deprive the Province as much as it is in your Power, of a Fund for it's Defence; and therefore you will be pleased to take our final Result, (which you say you wait for) that we cannot consistent with our Duty to his Majesty in the Preservation of this Part of his Dominions, Pass any Bill before you will be pleased to dispatch a Bill for Arms, &c. to us, agreeable to the Report of the Conferrees.

And now, *Gentlemen*, before you give us your final Answer, we earnestly desire you, like the Representatives of a Protestant People, who are blest with the enjoyment of their Religion and Liberties, under the best of Princes, to consider the real State and Circumstances of the Province.

We have an actual War with *Spain*, and expect one every Day with *France*, if it is not already declared; our Province lies in a defenceless Condition, easily to be invaded by the *French* and the Indians in Friendship with them; and the Papists amongst our selves and other Jacobites, have arrived at a degree of Insolence beyond all Imagination some of them not sparing his most Sacred Majesty himself, others threatning the Destruction of our Religion and Laws, and the mildest of them haranguing daily upon the terrible and irresistible Power of *France* and *Spain*.

At this time, *Gentlemen*, and in such Circumstances, it might have been really hoped and expected, that the Government might have prevailed upon you to have done something extraordinary for the Defence of the Province; but to be refused not only the Fund as it is increased by the Conferrees of both Houses, but even the continuance of the Fund in being upon the same Foot that they stand on at present, are Facts