

Magazines for our Arms and Ammunition, This induced me to tell you in my Message of the 13th of *May* last, " that the present Laws for regulating the Militia, not being sufficiently clear in their Directions about distributing our Arms and Ammunition throughout the several Counties, and the Colonels not being willing or obliged to make themselves answerable for them, and there being no Place of any Strength or Security in this City to lodge them in, I was very desirous of having your Advice and Assistance in an Affair of so very great Importance to the Province.

In your Address of the 16th of *May*, instead of giving a direct Answer to this " you assured me you would deliberately consider of any Proposition I should make for the better Distribution and Security of the Provincial Arms and Ammunition, and give any Advice and Assistance in that Affair, as you should think agreeable to me, and conducive to the Welfare of the Province.

Upon this I gave you my Opinion, that the Safety of the Country could never be sufficiently provided for, without One good Magazine at least, of such Strength as might effectually secure our Arms and Ammunition, from whence they might be distributed from Time to Time, as our Occasions require; at the same Time I recommended to you to consider the Insufficiency of our Militia Laws, as to any Obligation upon either Officers, or private Men, to take the Field, and behave as they ought to do in Defence of their Country against an invading Enemy.

To this you answered in your Address of the 4th of *June*, " that you should very willingly have entered upon the Consideration of those Matters, was there any Probability of having the Result of that Consideration pass into a Law that Session, if such Law should be thought necessary:" But what prevents you now entering upon the Consideration of an Affair of such Importance to the Province, you have not yet acquainted me, tho' I have recommended it to you again this Session.

Gentlemen,

If you consider what I have now offered to you, with Attention and Candour, you will easily judge in what manner you have dispatched the Bills for his Majesty's Service, which I recommended to have the first Place in your Proceedings, and how far short you have come of what might have been reasonably hoped for, and what may be further necessary for you to do to answer the just Expectations of the Government.

I shall not deny but that some of the Laws that now lie before the Upper House may be of use to the Country in some respects, tho' they are inconvenient in others; But a Provision for the Defence of the Province