

make a Provision for Arms and Ammunition, to proceed from my Zeal for his Majesty's Service; and good Wishes for the Welfare and Quiet of this Province: This Piece of Justice which you do me, may very fully serve as an Answer to that Part of your Address, where you seem to be at a Loss to know, why I so particularly recommended the Manner of that Provision; however, to speak more plainly, you cannot but be sensible I recommended such a Bill to you the last Session, which from the Consideration of the War with *Spain*, the Consequences naturally to be apprehended, and the Affair of the *Indians*, seemed then to be extremely necessary; notwithstanding which, you sent up a Bill of that Kind so framed, that it was impossible to receive it, without casting the most unjust Reflections on the Government; and besides that, in other Respects it could not possibly answer the Purposes designed.

I shall always be very tender of your Privileges; but at the same Time I must own the Duty of my Station will ever oblige me to point out to you any Method I can suggest, as the most effectual for the Service of our Sovereign, and Safety of the Province; and to make use of what Reasonings I think may be of Weight, to engage your Compliance: And altho' your warm Professions of steady Loyalty, inviolable Attachment to his most sacred Majesty's Person and Government, and Regard for your own Safety, may make all other Arguments useless, and free me from every Apprehension of your not demonstrating that Loyalty and Regard for the Safety of the Province, at this critical Juncture; yet I cannot be persuaded, the Consideration of future Misunderstandings, and putting a Stop to public Business, can be of so little Weight as you seem to make them, in the Consultations of a Legislature, at any Time, and much less at this important Crisis, when his Majesty's Crown is in Danger of being invaded by a Popish Pretender: This so alarming a Circumstance will give you an Opportunity of avoiding the Insinuation you mention (which was very far from my Thoughts), of your Want of Loyalty to our King, and Duty to your Constituents, by forwarding a Bill for Provision of Arms in the usual Manner, rather than, by going out of the common Road, entirely defeat so necessary and desirable an End.

I am not less surprized than concerned, you should so unnecessarily mention his Lordship's taking a considerable Sum of Money from the Inhabitants of this Province, under Colour of Law (as you call it); I hope you did not make that Assertion for the Sake of giving Offence; I am confident his Lordship's known Honour and Justice will guard him from the Effects of every such Imputation, and more especially in this particular Case, as you know the Point you hint at has been several Years in Agitation, by Way of Complaint to his Majesty; but so far from being brought to a Decision, that no Petition or Application has yet been made to the Crown, by you, upon that Head. I am certainly assured, his Lordship very heartily desires that Determination, not only for his own Sake, but for the real Interest and Advantage of the Province; since it is to be hoped, there will be such an Acquiescence in the Royal Pleasure, that our Time and Debates may be better employed, than in Contentions between Government and People; and which, in my Opinion, are not necessary to be intermixed with our present Proceedings.

T. BLADEN.