

and you endeavour to justify your Proceeding to be Parliamentary by Precedents of our own Legislature. In the first Place, you do not name the Precedents, so we can give no Answer to them. 2dly, It is strange you should in the first Part of your Message, expect a strict Conformity to Parliamentary Proceedings with Regard to our Interposition in a Money-Bill; and yet in this Part, knowing the Usage of Parliaments to be against you, you have Recourse to Precedents of our own Assembly, and slight those of Parliament: But Gentlemen, neither our Province or ourselves are too old or knowing not to be taught by the wise Legislators of Great-Britain; and notwithstanding there were many Precedents in our Assemblies (tho' at present we cannot recollect any to your Purpose), yet, if what we insist on is (as it seems confessed by your Message to be) right, and supported not only by Parliamentary Proceedings, but by the Reasons in our last Message (which you have not disproved), we shall think our Behaviour in this Matter well justified.

Although you will not agree in express Terms to so plain and almost self-evident a Proposition, as That such who have offered to clog any Bill with a Tack were always thought Enemies or Ill-wishers to such Bill; yet not only your own Reasons, herein before taken Notice of, but more especially those which follow, carry the strongest Proof of that Observation, with Regard to your Conduct on this Bill. You alledge the Necessity you were reduced to, by the Refusal of this House heretofore to pass that Bill: If this House had before refused to pass that Bill, how could your strong and frequent Professions of liege Subjects, Loyalty, Zeal, and Duty to his Majesty, permit you to clog this bill with any Matter, which you must be aware would be an Impediment to it's Passage?

And now Gentlemen, permit us in our Turn to say, that we little expected you would have given under your Hands such plain Hints, as to let us into your Scheme of making this Tack; for you assure us, "That when the Affair of *Louisburg* was first recommended to your Consideration, you had not this Matter within your View." If so, a little Recollection of your Proceedings, may perhaps account how this Agency afterwards came to your View.

The Governor acquainted us in his Speech, that he should lay nothing before us 'til we had discharged our Duty to his Majesty on this Point, of a Supply for *Louisburg*. On Wednesday the third Day of your sitting, you voted Two Thousand Pounds, our Paper Money, for *Louisburg* Garrison; and after naming a private Committee of Ways and Means, tho' every Body knew the Money must be taken (as it is ordered by the Bill) out of the Loan Office: Yet thus stood the Affair 'til Tuesday afterwards, when the Governor was pleased to press you to a Dispatch of it; but the very next Day you resolved to add a Clause in the Bill, for raising a Fund for the Payment of an Agent. We shall for the sake of Decency forbear making any other Remark, than that this Business seemed at first to be carried on not with the greatest Forwardness or Cheerfulness; but when above a whole Week had been spent, and no Bill framed, and the Governor appeared so zealous and urgent in his Majesty's Service, as that a further Delay could not be coloured with any Pretence, then, we suppose, this Clause of an Agent (no other Expedient offering for the Purpose) was thought of, in order to obstruct and even destroy the whole Bill.

Upon the whole, Gentlemen, we conceive the Provision intended for *Louisburg* Garrison will not, in all Probability, in the Manner the Bill provides, be procured Time enough to serve that Place.

We conceive this Tack or Clog to be unparliamentary, unjust, and of a violent Tendency; and therefore we have absolutely refused to pass the Bill.

Signed per Order, J. Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

An Ingrossed Address to the King's most Excellent Majesty, was Read, Approved of, and Ordered, on Behalf of the House, to be Signed by the honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker communicates to the House, the Three following Messages from his Excellency, *viz.*

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

IN Answer to your Address wherein you desire to know by what Authority One Pound of Tobacco is assessed and levied on every taxable Inhabitant within this Province: The said One Pound of Tobacco per Taxable, is assessed and levied by virtue of an Act of Assembly for the ordering and regulating the Militia of this Province for the better Defence and Security thereof, which you will find in the Body of Laws, Page 101.

T. BLADEN.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

IN Answer to your Address relating to the Naval Officers Bonds, I do acquaint you, that the several Naval Officers of this Province give Bond for the due Execution of their Office, which Bonds are lodged with me, Copies whereof I have ordered to be laid before you.

T. BLADEN.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

IN Answer to your Address desiring Accounts to be laid before you, of the Fines, Forfeitures and Amerciaments, which have arisen and been paid from the Year 1715 to this Time.

If you mean only such Fines and Forfeitures as are appropriated by Acts of Assembly to the Support of Government, I take for granted, that the Agents, who received them, have accounted for them to the Lord Proprietary, to whom only they were accountable.

As to Fines or Forfeitures by the Common Law, they are as much his Lordship's Right, as any thing else can possibly be, and therefore, if those who received them to his Lordship's Use, have honestly accounted for them to his Lordship, they have fully discharged their Duty; and I am informed by the present Agent that he has not received any other.

And if there was any occasion to lay such Accounts before the Lower House of Assembly, as you desire, which I think there is not, it would be a very difficult Task on me to procure such Accounts, because several of the Gentlemen who have been Agents are Dead, and I am not acquainted with their Executors or Administrators. The same Reasons will reach the Amerciaments, and therefore I need not add any thing more relating to them.

T. BLADEN.