

Construction of my endeavouring to prevail with you to execute that Power in his Favour, and which, considering all Circumstances, could scarcely be thought agreeable to my Inclination.

On the Leave your Honour has given me to explain myself on the Occasion, I solemnly Declare, I never Intended, by the Words I am charged with, to persuade but to inform you.

As to the other Charge, in private Conversation at my own House, I do not remember the Passage, but there is something in it so agreeable to my Sentiments, that I rest well satisfied in Submitting to your Honour's better Memory in the Case.

I had heard it generally complain'd; That the Militia of the Country was not in so good Order as might be wish'd, from an Aversion that many People of the Province had against the Subjecting themselves to be fined for not appearing at Musters: The Levying the Fine, imposed by Law, being clogg'd with such Requisites as renders it some-what impracticable (Pardon me that I assume the Language of the then Upper House on that Occasion) It was always my Notion, That nothing could more prostitute a Country to the Will of an Enemy than their being supinely Careless of Defence, presuming on Security. And lest this should at any Time be the Case of a Country, for which, by Interest and Affection, I am much concern'd, I was always, especially since the Rumour of a Peace betwixt the Five Nations and the *Canada* Indians; perswaded of my Duty to inculcate the Necessity of some Regulation of the Militia beyond its present Condition, and, I hope, I may, without Arrogance, assume to my self a Share in the Resolves that appear in the Journals of the Upper House last Sessions. And as it seem'd, by the Debate of both Houses, to be the Unanimous Opinion of the Upper House, as well as your Honours, That a Further Regulation was Necessary, and that a Majority of the Lower House thought it was not, and that I had no reason given me, after that Sessions, to Change my Opinion; it is very likely I might express my self as Charged.

For when Government is convinc'd of a Thing absolutely necessary for the common Safety, though the People (whose Capacities are not supposed to be adequate to all the Arduous Affairs of Government, nor their Judgment entirely to be rely'd upon therein, as without their Sphere) should not be convinc'd thereof, I might esteem it as proper to advise the Pursuit of all lawful Ways for the Accomplishing such Necessary Good, - as it is for a careful Nurse to give a Child unpalatable Physick when its Health and Safety require it, and therefore I might think the Opinion of the Lower House no Rule for my Advice.

And as the common Practice of Parliamentary Proceedings shews that