

" pendance upon the Mother-Country, as the Maintaining with a strict and steady Hand, the necessary  
 " Powers, and just Prerogatives of the Crown, and the preferring an uniform and settled Principle of  
 " Government, to an occasional Departure from it for temporary Convenience; every Day's Experience  
 " convinces us, that it is in vain to negotiate away his Majesty's Prerogative, every new Concession becomes  
 " the Foundation of some new Demand, and that, my Lords, of some new Dispute." Convinced of the  
 Justice of their Lordships Observation, cautioned by their Censure of the Proprietors of that Province, for  
 suffering a popular Assembly to make exorbitant Acquisitions of Power, and encouraged by your Excellency's  
 Example of Fortitude, in withstanding the unwarrantable Attempts of those Men among us, who are  
 grasping at Powers which do not belong to them, we shall on all Occasions, oppose their unjustifiable Mea-  
 sures, and as far as shall be in our Power, preserve for Posterity, our Constitution unaltered. With regard  
 to the latter Part of the Gentlemens Message, we beg Leave to observe, that finding the whole Expence of  
 raising, cloathing and paying the Number of Men, which they had voted, in Consequence of your Excel-  
 lency's Recommendation, would not amount to one third Part of the Sum they proposed by their Bill to  
 raise, and knowing that the Necessity of raising a large Sum, is the principal Argument, those of them who  
 are fond of Innovations, urge to their Constituents, in Justification of their Conduct, and in Favour of such  
 a Bill, we could not help intimating to them, our Sentiments on that Head; we did indeed perceive, that by  
 the Bill they had appropriated a Part of the Money proposed to be raised, towards defraying some other Ex-  
 pences, viz. the Arrears due to the *Maryland* Troops, that, contrary as we have Reason to believe, to the  
 Inclination of the Lower House, served under Brigadier *Forbes*, in his Expedition against *Fort Du Quesne*;  
 and also the Arrears due, or which have been paid by his Majesty's General to the Gentlemen that victualled  
 those Troops during the Winter before that Expedition; but as it was no Secret, to either that House or us,  
 that when it was evident the Troops were to expect no other Pay from the Assembly, besides naked Res-  
 solves, an Order was, through your Excellency's humane and kind Offices, obtained from the Lords of the  
 Treasury, for the Payment of such Arrears, we could not see the Expediency of the Assembly's now ap-  
 propriating the Sum of Fourteen Thousand Pounds for that Purpose, or view it in any other Light, than a  
 Contrivance to reserve so much Money for some particular Use, which they did not at present choose to men-  
 tion. As to the Appropriation of Six Thousand Pounds to pay the Militia, that your Excellency was pleas-  
 ed, by Virtue of the Power with which every Governor of this Province is invested, to order to the Frontiers  
 (some of them, at the Request of the then Lower House) for the Defence and Security of the Inhabitants  
 who were at that Time exposed to the Ravages of a savage Enemy; we are of Opinion, that such an Ap-  
 propriation is not to be allowed, nor such Militia paid, otherwise than is particularly directed by the Militia  
 Law; lest by consenting to their being paid in any other Manner, we should seem to countenance the very  
 extraordinary Resolves, which the Lower House presumed, in violation of Common-Sense, to make, when  
 in the Year 1758, they seemed to have nothing so much at Heart, as to render this Province entirely De-  
 fenceless, though your Excellency's Firmness and Resolution, happily frustrated their Attempts. Besides the  
 two Sums we have mentioned, there was Three Thousand Pounds to be appropriated towards reimbursing  
 those Gentlemen who were put to some Expence, by providing Necessaries for such of the King's Forces as  
 were in the Years 1756 and 1757, sent hither for Winter Quarters; but as there is still remaining in the  
 Loan-Office, and in the Agent's Hands, more than Two Thousand Pounds of the Money that was granted  
 here in 1756, for his Majesty's Service, the Persons, most of whom are Gentlemen of this City, who have  
 Claims on Account of those Troops being Quartered here, may have been satisfied, had an Act for granting  
 the Sum of Fifteen Thousand Pounds been now passed; since that Sum, as hath been already hinted, is con-  
 siderably more than would, on the Gentlemens own Calculation, have been sufficient to raise, cloath and  
 pay the Four Hundred Men, they proposed to keep up till the First of *April* next, and to raise the Eighty-  
 four Recruits, required as the Quota of this Province, for the Regular Regiments. As we do not know on  
 what Rule or Principle, the Gentlemen of the Lower House could make a Calculation of the Sum that  
 would be raised by such a Bill as they offered us, and must confess that for our own Parts, we are unable to  
 make any Estimate of the Value of all the real and personal Estate in the Province, we shall only observe  
 with respect to such Part of their Message, that though we are inclined to believe, that if the Assessors were  
 to rate at it's full Value, all the Property subjected by that Bill to a Tax, much more than even the whole  
 Sum proposed to be levied, might be raised in one Year, yet as so great a Latitude is left to the Discretion,  
 and to the Partiality of the Assessors, it might not be raised in several Years, should they in their Valuations,  
 follow the Practice of Assessors in a neighbouring Government. This great Uncertainty, we cannot but con-  
 sider as a very material Objection to the Plan of the Bill, as we are confident, leaving the Assessors so much  
 at large, would create ill Blood, and Confusion among the Inhabitants, already, on Account of the Proposal of  
 such a Bill, divided into Parties; and in such a Situation of Things, it would, we think, have been carrying  
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