

General himself had hopes of any Assistance from this Province when he wrote to me, nor perhaps does he want any. However as the Gentlemen of the Lower House had in their Answer to my Speech made Professions as usual of Loyalty & a Desire to promote His Majesty's Service They Resolved that the Sum of £32.000 should be granted, part of it for the support of 200 Men to be raised in pursuance of Gen^l Monkton's Request, & the Residue towards paying off the Arrears that are due to the Soldiers who were sometime ago in the Service of this Province & to the Militia who served on the Frontiers; but then they Resolved likewise that this Money should be raised by the same mode & Bill that hath been so often rejected, or in other Words that altho they had Voted the Sum abovementioned, They were determined it should never be raised at all. This Bill of theirs was sent Yesterday in the Afternoon to the Upper House where I suppose it will be read to Morrow & then returned with a flat Negative. This I doubt not will be the Fate of it, nor do I expect that the Lower House will proceed to any other Business this Session, indeed it is a question whether they would be able to keep for three Days longer a sufficient Number of Members to compose a House, a great Number of the Representatives being detained at home by indispositions or by their Families being sick, for the Summer having been an exceeding wet & hot one, almost every Body has suffered in their Health & many have died; I was myself attacked about two months ago with a very threatening Fever, from which however I am now perfectly recovered, but I am very apprehensive that we shall lose Col^o Tasker, it being now more than a Fortnight since he has been confined to his Bed by a Fever which has never intermitted. In case we should be deprived of him & you should be advised of his Decease (for indeed I despair of his Recovery) by any other Person's Letters before I can advise you thereof, for perhaps some Gentleman or other may on such an Event recommend himself & solicit the Office which the Colonel has enjoyed under you, I intreat it as a particular Favour that you will not Confer it on any one, before you are advised by my Letter of the Secretary's Office being vacant, & I shall entertain hopes that my Recommendation in such Case will have some Weight with you & not be disagreeable. I am much obliged to you for sending me that Extract from the Report of the Lords of Trade on the Laws that were passed last year in Pens^a by Governor Denny & for your Promise to send me a Transcript of the whole Report by the first Opportunity; we are told however that notwithstanding their Ldp's made such a Report on the Act granting £100000 for His Majesty's Service young M^r Franklin has

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