

But we are taught by Experience not to be too credulous, but to persist in what we have so reasonably fixed on: And there is a further (and of it self) a sufficient Motive, why we should not shorten the Nine Years by any Abatement whatever, and that is, the certain Testimony you have given us, at the last, and this Meeting of the Assembly, and now again by your new Offer of Two Years, that your only Aim is to procure, upon any Terms, that Law for Arms, &c. for the Defence of this Province to be totally dropt; we are so fully perswaded of This, that we cannot doubt but you might be induced to give any greater Sum whatsoever, or lay any greater Load on the People, so as you could compass that Design; This Earnestness of yours must be a very great Surprize to every one, since the Money appropriated to be raised by that Act is to such a laudable Purpose, as the Defence of the Province; the Sum arising thereby so far from being more than sufficient, that many Accidents may happen that will require a much greater Sum; and the Manner of raising the same at present so little Burthensome, that it is not Felt: But we have (besides our other Motives) more regard to the Satisfaction and Ease of the People, as well as to the Continuance of such a Law, than to consent to any greater Imposition on Trade, for the People might then feel a Burthen, and the Merchants might perhaps be influenced by such, who wish a Destruction of the Law, to apply for a Dissent: We shall only further add, that it is not suitable to the Characters of Legislators, to play at fast and loose, which you now attempt, by first offering Two Alternatives to our Choice, we fix upon One, and then you tell us, No, you shall have the Other: But to put an End to this Matter, we repeat our Resolution not to depart from our Choice of Nine Years, upon any other Terms than your Consent to a Number of Years and to the End of the next Session; so that now we return the Compliment of a Choice; and we assure you, that which ever you may think fit to chuse, we shall not tell you our pleasure to be, that you should take the other.

Since you assert, that there are many Laws in Being against the Roman Catholicks, we shall sincerely take it as a very particular Favour, if you will be pleased to acquaint us, what Laws you apprehend to be in Force here against Roman Catholicks: If you should be unwilling to gratify us with this Information, your Mention of Laws in Being may seem to be thrown in order to prevent any being made, tho' you declare yourselves not backward in making Laws for that purpose.

To Conclude with your Request of a Conference, we Answer, That you have now fully our Resolution with regard to the Bill for Arms, &c. But