

dropt, and the Country be left destitute of the least Supply, perhaps when a War with *France* and *Spain*, by being continued longer than the time to which you limit the Bill, may require the greatest Fund we can raise for our Defence; and of this Truth we doubt not you are convinced, otherwise you would have acquiesced with our Choice, if for no other Reason but to discover the Obstacle you hint at, and which you do not care to name; and this brings us to tell you why that Money has been hoarded up (as you call it) at *London* for these last Seven Years; you are sensible this Act can raise (*communibus Annis*) but about 300 l. Sterling per Annum; If this Money should be disposed of as fast as this Act raises it, there would not be till the end of the succeeding Year, any Money to Supply any immediate necessary Call in the intermediate Time; besides the annual Sum would certainly be too little for many sudden emergent Occasions which might immediately require a large Sum of Money for our Defence: Further you must allow, that had the Money now in Bank been laid out in Arms and Ammunition, although we should perhaps have had many more Arms, and a much greater quantity of Powder in Store, yet notwithstanding all imaginable Care (which has been the greatest that could be taken in this Province) many of such Arms, and a great deal of the Powder would have been, as what we have now are, (if not entirely) yet more unfit for Service, than new Powder and Arms; and surely there is very little Reason to reproach those, who are intrusted with the Disposition of that Fund, with husbanding or even hoarding it up (as your Phrase is) in *London*, ready for such dangerous Occasions as may require a large Sum of Money; and it is entirely owing to the Necessity of applying it to sudden Calls, that the Monies always lie dead in the Merchants Hands without any Interest, since none can foresee how soon or suddenly it may be wanted: The Reasons we have given for hoarding (your beloved Phrase must not be omitted) the Money will, we doubt not, justify us to every unprejudiced and reasonable Man, as well as prove, that you are determined to condemn our Conduct at all Events; you have heretofore gone so far as even to charge us with embezzelling 2500 l. part of this Fund, and this Charge remains in the Printed Proceedings of the last Convention, you have had sufficient time to examine this Matter, and we suppose you have done so; if you have, you must be convinced of the Injustice of your Accusation, tho' you have not had Candor enough to make a bare acknowledgement that you have been mistaken; such an acknowledgement, tho' but an Act of Justice, is too great a Favour for us to expect from you: Whatever that Money is which you insinuate his Lordship takes for Support of Government, we suppose it makes a