

" COUNCIL CHAMBER, 2d MARCH, 1814.

" The committee of conference are instructed to state to the committee of conference on the part of the House of Assembly, that the Council are sincerely desirous to agree with the House of Assembly in such amendments of the Militia Law as would fully redeem the pledges of the two Houses to His Honor the President, at the opening of the Session, which were to adopt such amendments as would render the Law more efficient for the essential purposes of defence, for which important object His Honor has since, by Messages of the 31st January to both Houses, deemed it his duty to express his opinion, that a provision for an annual training of the several Battalions of Militia during six days at least, is indispensably necessary.

" That the Council anxious to attain this object, but at the same time aware that it must unavoidably impose a heavy and unequal burthen on those who are enrolled in the Militia, have proposed to the Assembly to make provision for lightening this burthen, at least so far as to furnish the Militia with provisions while thus called out to be prepared for actual service, in case of necessity, for the general defence. This proposal however, was not only rejected by the House of Assembly but was considered as an infringement of their peculiar privileges; in such an imputation the Council could not acquiesce consistently with their duty to guard against any innovations in the constitution of this Colonial Legislature. Yet anxious to avoid at this time all particular discussions of that nature they merely disclaimed the imputation, in the hope of finding the House of Assembly alike disposed to abstain from questions of privilege at a juncture like the present, and endeavor as far as the circumstances of the Province would admit to meet the wishes of His Honor the President, which can only be prompted by a sincere ambition to contribute every thing in his power to the safety and welfare of the Colony committed to his Administration.

" After several fruitless conferences on this subject, the Council have, as a measure of conciliation proposed that, as the two Houses have not been able to agree on any amendments of the existing Law, the further discussion of that subject be for the present deferred, and that the Act of 1813, be continued to the end of the next Session of the General Assembly. This measure though it was actually adopted on Friday last by the House, and was ordered to be on their part proposed to the Council for their concurrence, is now on being proposed on the part of the Council, rejected by the House of Assembly, and a Bill sent up with provisions to which the Council cannot agree, since it is in their opinion much less efficient for the essential purposes of defence than the Act of 1813, for the amendment of which the Council still are anxious, but are fearful it cannot be obtained at present.

" It is stated, on the part of the House of Assembly, that by simply continuing the Act of 1813, many material benefits would be lost to the country, particularly the imposition of a fine upon aliens, and the recovery of fines before the Captains, the latter of which is stated to have been adopted by the House of Assembly, at the strong recommendation of the Council. To this statement the committee on the part of the Council is instructed to answer that their recommendation was to provide for the recovery of fines not before a Captain, to which they have serious objections, but before a board of officers. But if the House of Assembly continue to be of opinion that the proposed fine upon aliens, and the recovery of fines before a Captain, would be an amendment to the Act of 1813, the

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