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New York Gazette 1741

William Bradford

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Numb. 803

THE

New-York Gazette

From April 27 to Monday May 4. 1741.

*May it please your Honour;*

W E his Majesty's most Loyal and Dutiful Subjects the General Assembly of this Colony, humbly beg Leave, in Answer to the Speech your Honour was pleased to make unto us at the Opening of this Session, to state some of the Matters contained in it, in the Light they appear to us; to give you our Sentiments of others, and an Assurance, that we purpose to Provide as well for a further Support of the Government as for the Security and Defence of this City and the Frontiers in the best manner the Ability and Circumstances of the Colony will allow, and this we intend to do, in the shortest manner the Nature thereof will admit.

We ever look'd upon the happy Revolution as a Blessing to the Nation in General, and to this Colony in Particular, as it restored to us the Benefit of Assemblies, and secured our Rights and Privileges; we likewise own the Bounties and Protections we have received from our great Deliverer and his Royal Successor. It must be owned of the other hand, that in a grateful Return, the Assemblies did, from time to time Cheerfully Support the Government, and made ample Provision for all Expenditures, as well as for all other Exigencies for the Security of the Colony and the Service of the Crown.

It must be owned, that the Money granted, was at the Disposition of the Governor and Council, as it must of the other Hand, that the Misapplication thereof induced the Assembly to direct Money for Forces, intended for the Security of the Frontiers, to Pass thro' the hands of a Person named by them, with this just View, that the Service might effectually be Performed and duly Paid.

This was judged so Reasonable by her late Majesty, Queen Anne, that she was graciously pleased to direct, that the Colony should have a Treasurer of their own and it is well known, that all Publick Money has ever since pass'd thro' that Channel.

If we look back into what happened whilst the Publick Money was directed of in the manner aforelaid, it will appear that the Consequence thereof

*Upon May 12 1741 to
your own dear Clerk May 1741.*

thereof laid the chief Foundation of the two Long Bills. And your Honour knows, that for Discharging the large Sums allowed by them as Debts of the Colony, the Excise on Strong Liquors Retailed has been employed for many years past, and still stands appropriated for that Purpose for many years to come.

It cannot but be within your Honour's Knowledge, that formerly the Rents reserved to his Majesty on Lands granted in this Colony, and all Seizures, Forfeitures and Dues that arose in it to the Crown, were applied for the Support and Incidents of the Government. We shall not enquire when or for what Reason that Application has been discontinued. But it is well known, that the Colony has nevertheless granted, from time to time, a more ample Support than is or has been given by the Neighbours; provided largely for Fire-wood and Candles to his Majesty's Troops posted in it; and considerable Presents to the Six Nations of Indians, a Service of such Importance to Confirm them in the British Interest, that the Crown has often sent proper Supplies for that Purpose, even in time of Peace, and that we have lately erected, at a vast Expence, a noble Battery mounted with upwards of Fifty great Guns, at the Entrance of the Harbour of this City, and new Forts at *Albany*, *Schenectade*, and in the *Mohawks Country*, besides Victualling and Transporting Five Hundred Volunteers on an Expedition to the *West-Indies*. If these Matters were duly Represented, we should conceive great hopes, from the Tender Regard his Majesty has to all his Subjects, that the said Branches would be Restored to their former use, in case of his Loyal People here, especially as so many other Fortifications and Buildings are now Required. And if matters of a shorter Period be lookt into, whilst the Disposition of Publick Money remained upon the Footing aforesaid, it will appear that by Misapplication of the Money only, which were granted for Support of Government, Deficiencies happened to the amount of several Thousand Pounds; which of course occasioned Demands on the Assemblies to Supply them. This brought the said Assemblies under the Dilemma, either to Contend with the Administration, or to grant such Supplies, and they generally prefer'd the latter, lest several Salaries, as well as other necessary Services should remain unpaid.

If these Circumstances are maturely considered it will be evident, that it was neither Wantonness, Prosperity, nor our late Unhappy Divisions, much less any Attempt upon the Royal Prerogative, [Our Trade and Produce having been long at a low Eb, and our Loyalty ever conspicuous] But this single and just Motive only, to prevent former Inconveniences, which induced the Legislature in the first place to discharge all Arrearages, and then to settle the Support of Government upon the present footing; a method by which Misapplications are avoided, and all Salaries, as well as other Services of the Government, duly discharged. And for these Reasons we cannot harbour the least suspicion that the known Justice of his Majesty will disapprove of a Method by which the good Ends aforesaid, are Effectually attained.

Permit us to observe on this head that your Honour has assented to Acts in which that Method is settled, and that former Governours have assent-

ted to several acts in which particular Applications are made. And we find well Informed, that the Right Honourable the Lords of Trade have, upon a former Occasion, declared, *That they thought it very Reasonable to oblige the Assembly as much as Possible, at all times to Dispose of Money, by them granted in such manner as they desire.*

It is with no small Reluctance that we have made these Retrospections which we conceived your first Paragraph made unavoidable. But neither the one or the other will divert us from serving and securing the Colony in the best manner its Circumstances will admit.

To what is mentioned of a Jealousie in *England*, that the Plantations are not without thoughts of throwing off their Dependence on the Crown of *England*, we shall say the less, as your Honour declares, you hope and believe no Man in this Colony has such Intention, and we dare Vouch, that not one single Person in it, has any such Thought or desire; For under what Government can we be better Protected, or our Liberties and Properties so well secured.

We agree with you, that the Right Honourable *Horatio Walpole*, Esq; Auditor General of his Majesty's Revenue in *America*, is of great Honour, Interest & Trust at Home, & are far from drawing in Question his Majesty's Right to appoint such an Officer. We are sensible that several Sums of Money have been paid here for his Use; and as the same passed thro' your hands, the Total of it is well known to your Honour, and that during such Payments, the Money granted for Support of Government was issuable upon Warrants signed by the Governor in Council, and for what may be claimed more in virtue of that Office, We are firmly perswaded, that the Interest of that Honourable Gentleman cannot fail of obtaining from his Majesty an Equivalent suitable to the Services annexed to that Office.

We purpose to fall upon Ways and Means for the further Support of Government, after *December* next, till which time we conceive sufficient Provision is made for it already; and are of Opinion, it will not be expected the same should be granted otherwise than as it has been done of late, was it only for this single Reason, That as the chief Burthen thereof has lain on Trade, should it be laid in like manner for a Term of years, it might be a means to drive our Trade to the Neighbouring Colonies, and perhaps induce some of our Merchants to remove thither, as Trade in those Governments is not burthend with any Impositions whatever, that we know of. And many Instances might be given, that where the Channel of a Trade has been diverted, it has rarely (if ever) been retrieved; as of the other hand, we have found, by a short Experience, that since our Duties have been Reduced, and some Draw-backs allowed on Exportation, our Navigation has encreased considerably.

We are sensible, that the present State of Affairs in *Europe* make it absolutely necessary to complete and augment our Fortifications: We shall therefore endeavour to put this City and the Frontiers in the best Posture of Defence the Circumstances of the Colony will allow, as well to discourage Attempts of an Enemy, as to encourage our Inhabitants to exert themselves, if we should have the Misfortune to be attacked.

And

And whilst care is taken of these Matters, the Consideration of the Trading-House at Oswego will not be neglected.

We have already ordered a Bill to be brought in to Continue the Militia Act, and to oblige all Persons able to bear Arms, who are now exempted, to do Duty in cases of Alarm, and to watch in their Turns, whilst Night Watches are necessary to be kept. And likewise that Beacons be erected in proper Places, to convey Alarms in the speediest manner when a certain Number of Ships appear in sight.

We are sensible that an Agent at the Court of Great Britain might often be of great benefit to the Colony, if depending on, and payable by the General Assembly. And we hope, that when ever a Bill be presented for that Purpose, it will not fail of obtaining your Honour's Assent.

It is with the deepest Concern that we have cause to Condole your Honour and the Publick (as we sincerely do) for the great Loss you and they have sustained by the burning down of the Stately Buildings in Fort George. And however that Misfortune happen'd, we shall in the beginning of our Proceedings consult in what manner the Fortifications may be made more Useful and Defensible, and the Buildings securer against Damage of an Enemy, and less liable to intimidate the known readiness and alacrity of our Inhabitants in cases of Fire. We shall endeavour to do what is material and necessary upon this unhappy Occasion. For the doing of it all at Once, will be a heavier Burthen than the Colony can well bear, especially as the late severe and long Winter has occasioned an incredible loss to the People of this Colony in general; it is in the meanwhile, a good deal of Pleasure to us, that you are provided with a good Residence, and his Majesty's Troops with a Proper House to keep guard in.

It is no small alleviation of this Malancholly Accident, that his Majesty has been Graciously pleased, out of his Paternal Care for the Security of this Colony, to order for its use the large Quantity of Stores of War mentioned in the List which your Honour communicated to the House, and hope they will soon be hattered to us, as the State of Affairs seem to require.

We gratefully acknowledge it is Royal Favour, and have strong Reason to wish a sufficient Quantity of Powder had been ordered with it, though there had been an abatement of some of the other Stores; and we believe, your Honour knows, that the Crown has ever furnished Powder to its Fortifications in this Colony, and if an attempt should be made upon it, either by Land or Water, how Difficult would our Situation be! for tho' our People are generally grown up with the use of Arms, and with the Resolution to endure under Danger, what a Damp, what a Discouragement would it be if our Batteries & Forts were destitute of Ammunition to make the proper Use of them? In such an Event it would be a Question whether a sufficient Quantity could be procured in the Colony, and a greater how it would be able to purchase the same, especially as it now labours under several extraordinary Difficulties.

If a due Representation of this hereof was made to his Majesty and his Ministers of State, we should have great hopes that we should soon be supplied with a sufficient Quantity of Powder for the Defence of his Majesty's Fortifications; but if by any Emergency it should be wanted sooner, as Self-Prevention is its most prudent Nature, we shall maturely consider in what manner to make a vigorous Defence.

As for the Expence of Carrying the Stores to their proper Places, Mouning the Guns, and other Necessary Expences, after their arrival, there is no doubt our care will be taken to defray it.

As to the better Regulation of Negroes, and what you have been pleased to Recommend, more especially what is proposed concerning the six Nations of Indians, shall, in the course of our Proceedings, be duly considered, and have their proper weight, as we, of the other hand, make no doubt of your Honour's Assent to such Bills as may tend to the Welfare of the Colony, and the Benefit of the Inhabitants hereof.