

Letter Bk. IV enough to frame that Address & as sure am I that if any thing could have been alledged against M^r Ridout they would not have let the Opportunity slip. That the Assembly was prorogued before the Lower House addressed me to dismiss them is certain, but it is as certain that all the Gentlemen of the Council present who were six in number desired me in pressing Terms to prorogue them alledging that they had been sitting near a month without doing the Business for which alone they had been convened & had shewn by the Bill they had framed entituled "An Act for Encouraging a Collection & publication of the Laws of this Province" by their Votes in Consequence of the motion for a College Bill, & by their Proceedings relative to an Address to His Majesty &c. that those Members of the Lower House who were left (for all the moderate men were gone off) had nothing in view but by offering such Laws as they knew would not pass to lay a foundation for Popularity against the ensuing Election; such were the Arguments & Reasons urged by the Gentlemen of the Council when they desired me to prorogue the Assembly & indeed they would have determind me to take that Step long before had I not been satisfied that if they had been dismissed before they had addressed me on the Affair of M^r Darnall they would have told their Constituents I prorogued them in order to conceal his Knavery & to prevent their making an Enquiry into the Proceedings of other Officers. A fortnight or three weeks after the Assembly had broke up M^r Calvert who lives in Prince Georges County happening to pay me a Visit informed me that the People in that part of the Province had been made to believe (as he supposed by M^r Murdock) that the Assembly had been prorogued at M^r Ridout's Instance lest they should have presented an Address against him but that upon his (M^r Calvert's) declaring in a publick Assembly at Marlbro that there was not the least Foundation for such a Suggestion the Rumour died, no Person choosing to acknowledge himself the Author of it or to contradict M^r Calvert's Assertion, & I am confident the Inhabitants in general were never so quiet & contented since I have had the honour to serve His Ldp as they have been ever since the Assembly broke up. We have since had a general Election at which many well behaved sensible men were chosen in the Stead of such as I never desired to see again in the House & I cannot but flatter myself that the Persons who have for many years past had the sole Management of Assembly Affairs will now lose much of their Influence. Having I am afraid tired your Patience by dwelling so long on one Part of your Letter which indeed I could not read without some Degree of Indignation at the Proceedings of those who as you