

# HORATIO SHARPE, Esq; Governor. 51

By the UPPER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, 24th April, 1762.

GENTLEMEN,

**Y**OUR Message of the Sixteenth Instant is of so extraordinary a Nature, both in Language and Sentiment, and so unbecoming the Representative of the People of *Maryland*, which, without the least Foundation, sets up for an unrivalled Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and arrogates to itself the Rights and Powers of a *British* House of Commons, that, but for the salutary Motive of obviating these groundless Pretensions, we most certainly should not have paid the least Regard to it.

The Reality of the Concern you are pleased to express, that our Message of the 13th Instant should deprive you of all Hopes of coming to an Agreement with us about the Manner of raising Supplies for his Majesty's Service, you will permit us to doubt; because there seems not the least Evidence, from your Conduct, of a Real Concern to raise Supplies for his Majesty's Service, unless at an Expence, which his Majesty would consider as beyond all Proportion above their Worth: This will appear past Doubt from a very slender Scrutiny into the Conduct of the People's Representatives to the present Time.

They were thrice called to meet in Assembly, to raise Supplies for his Majesty's Service, and in their first Meeting, to shew their Loyalty to his Majesty, and earnest Desire to comply with his Requisitions, they sent to the Upper House a Bill upon the Plan of a general Assessment upon real and personal Estates; this Plan you so lately, as your Message of the 9th Instant, call "a new System, intricate in it's Nature, and liable to Objections, which you suppose may escape your House:" The Bill was accordingly rejected for Reasons wherewith the Lower House was afterwards made acquainted; the second and third Meetings in Assembly for the like Purpose, influenced by the like earnest Desire to raise Supplies for his Majesty's Service, produced the like Bill in the Lower House, which, from this House, met with the like Fate: The Lower House finding by this Time, that this their favourite new System, intricate in it's Nature and liable to Objections, could not be obtained, without an uncommon Degree of Perseverance, and apprehensive at the same Time, that the Sincerity of their earnest Desire so often expressed, to raise Supplies for his Majesty's Service, from so repeatedly proposing only the same Bill for raising those Supplies, which had been as frequently rejected, began to be doubted; to obviate if possible these unfavourable Impressions, they thought proper to express their Concern, as you do now, to find, that after refusing two Bills, sent to us at their two last Meetings, for his Majesty's Service, without mentioning the Objections we might have to either of them, we had returned a third for the same Purpose, in the same Manner, and declare, that if our Objections had been made to either of those, or to the then present Bill, they would have shewed the utmost Readiness to do every Thing they could, consistent with their Rights and Privileges, to have brought about the Passage of them; but, without scrupulously examining into the Means of Escape from this Declaration, left by the Manner of penning it, it is sufficient to observe, that this House accordingly informed the Lower House of many Objections to that Bill, without obviating which, by amending their Draft, that Bill could not meet with our Assent; and in order to manifest their earnest Desire to raise, for his Majesty, the Supplies he demanded, instead of altering their Bill in any Manner conformable thereto, they endeavoured to Answer those Objections, which brought on a Dispute between the Two Houses, and that Session ended with as little Effect to his Majesty's Service as the Two former; and tho' every Man of common Sense, who would give himself the Trouble of perusing those Messages, must consider those Objections as Unanswered (and in this we are supported by the Opinion of his Majesty's late Attorney-General upon that Bill and those Messages); the Lower House continued for Five successive Sessions to send the same Bill to the Upper House for their Assent, without paying the least Regard to any one of the many material Objections, pursuant to their Request so long before, by this House, pointed out to them: Had these Lower Houses been so earnestly desirous to raise Supplies for his Majesty's Service, would they so repeatedly have sent up the same Bill for that Purpose, without any one material Alteration in the Plan, or in any of the material Parts of that Bill? Would they not, had they been really desirous of Granting his Majesty the demanded Supplies, have given some Indications of that Desire by their Conduct, in taking the proper Measures to adapt a Bill for that Purpose to the Approbation of the Upper House, without whose Assent, they could not be so ignorant as to imagine it could pass into a Law? Or, Why did not that earnest Desire, and those repeated Professions of Loyalty towards his Majesty, produce some other Plan than that of a Confused, Absurd, Unjust, Unequal, and Oppressive Assessment? Were those Houses so barren of Invention or Genius, as to be incapable of forming any other? This was not the Case; Why then, when other Plans more Just and Equal, less Intricate in their Nature, liable to fewer Objections, and infinitely less Dangerous to the undoubted Prerogatives of the Crown, and the Rights and Liberties of the People, than your favourite Assessment Bill, were formed and proposed to those Houses, why were they no sooner proposed than voted out, but that, whatever were their Professions, they had no Intention of raising Supplies for his Majesty's Service, nor of affording this House an Opportunity of coming to an Agreement with them, at a less Expence than that of his Majesty's Prerogatives and the People's Liberties, by a total Subversion of our present Constitution, and lodging the several Powers thereof, now equally distributed for the Preservation of the Whole, in their Hands? And if their warmest Professions appear thus destitute of Truth and Candour, What Regard are we to pay to those so often repeated by yourselves?

Give us Leave therefore, *Gentlemen*, to say you could not flatter yourselves, that the Message accompanying your Assessment Bill to this House, would have produced an Agreement between the Two Houses about the Manner of raising Supplies for his Majesty's Service, because (amongst other Reasons) you express your Fear that it would not have that Effect; but if you were afraid of the Success of this Method, Why would you offer it? Surely a real Concern for his Majesty's Service would have suggested some other Method; but altho' you might fear, you were far from being *satisfied* we would not pass that Bill; And pray, *Gentlemen*, why were you not satisfied? Or, What will satisfy you, if Eight successive Refusals of such a Bill will not? Could you have any Reason to expect, or even to entertain, the most distant Hope, that the Ninth Offer of the like Bill could have better Success than the Eight preceding? But you were not satisfied that we would at this Time obstinately adhere to Objections made against a Bill in 1758: But why not at this Time? Have you