

" will have Cause to Lament !" But, having no private Interests to serve, or public Disturbances to raise, we forbear.

Your Message being altogether in the Declamatory Strain, and adapted much rather to inflame an Assembly of your Constituents, than to correct Errors, by convincing the Understanding in a Legislative Course of Proceeding; and having, we think, sufficiently manifested your Pretensions to the two important Points you claim, to be entirely groundless, we shall totally disregard the various Phantoms you have been pleased to raise, in Hopes of our joining you in the endless Pursuit; and observe that after having in Appearance persuaded yourselves, you seem endeavouring to persuade your Constituents to believe, that you are the only Branch of this Legislature, either by Constitution or Inclination, concerned for the Preservation of the People's Happiness, and that you consequently have an exclusive Right of determining in a Legislative Way concerning their Rights and Benefits: But herein you happen to be no less unfortunately mistaken, than in those Points relative to your Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and to your Claims of the Rights and Privileges of the *British* House of Commons. We claim to be, and are, in equal Degree with yourselves, the Constitutional Guardians and Protectors of the People's Liberties; for as we have already intimated, this House was by your Ancestors erected with a View to Check and Restrain the boundless Powers their Representatives might otherwise be disposed to exercise over them, and consequently to judge, and pursuant thereto, to exert our Powers whenever we see Occasion, to prevent their Ruin or Oppression. And give us Leave, *Gentlemen*, to acquaint you, that we are by no Means inferior even to your Pretensions, in Point of Inclination to promote their true Interest and Happiness; that as we have frequently heretofore, so have we now upon the Occasion of this your favourite Assessment Bill, saved them from the Ruin resulting from the Plan and Manner of penning of that your favourite new System, had it been Enacted into a Law; so totally new, that tho' you are pleased to assert " that Plans of this Sort have not only been thought practicable, but " found, by long Experience, eligible in our Mother Country, and most of the neighbouring Colonies," we must take the Liberty to deny that there is, to our Knowledge or Belief, any such Law subsisting in either one or the other, unless where the Constitution of Government may happen to be such as you would willingly reduce this to; and even in such a Constitution, if such can be found, no such Bill as yours has ever existed, and been " found, by long Experience, to be eligible." The Invention is entirely your own; and however desirous you may pretend to be, that " we would only give the People of this Province an Opportunity of making an Experiment of it," we must beg to be excused, because, besides that there are many who perhaps upon any other Occasion you would avoid counting amongst the Number of the People, and whose Liberties and Properties are unjustly to be affected by this Bill, as well as the Danger that a single Precedent may be appealed to as the Foundation of a future Claim to the Continuance of this new and intricate System, with all it's Train of Mischiefs attending it, we cannot, for one Hour, trust you with the Powers you would by this Bill acquire over the People.

Signed per Order,

J. Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

Which was Read, and Ordered to lie on the Table.

*Samuel Chamberlaine*, and *Edward Lloyd*, Esquires, from the Upper House, acquaint Mr. Speaker, That the Governor requires the Attendance of this House immediately in the Upper House.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and (with the Rest of the Members of the Lower House) went to the Upper House, and there presented to his Excellency the Governor,

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act to exempt Persons, appearing at Musters, from Arrests in Civil Cases.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act to prevent certain Evils and Inconveniencies attending the Sale of strong Liquors, and running of Horse-Races, near the yearly Meetings of the People called Quakers; and to prevent the tumultuous Concourse of Negroes and other Slaves during the said Meetings; and also one other Act, entituled, An Act to amend and explain an Act, entituled, An Act to prevent certain Evils and Inconveniencies attending the Sale of strong Liquors, and running of Horse-Races, near the yearly Meetings of the People called Quakers; and to prevent the tumultuous Concourse of Negroes and other Slaves during the said Meetings.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act for Punishment of Horse-Stealers, and other Offenders.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act for the more effectual Punishment of certain Offenders, and for taking from them the Benefit of Clergy.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An additional and explanatory Act to the Act, entituled, An Act empowering the Commissioners of the County Courts to levy and raise Tobacco, to defray the necessary Charges of their Counties and Parishes.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act relating to Guardians and Orphans.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act for destroying Wolves in Frederick County.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An additional supplementary Act to the Act, entituled, An Act relating to Servants and Slaves.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act for the more effectual Punishment of Negroes and other Slaves; and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain Offenders; and a Supplementary Act to an Act, entituled, An Act to prevent the tumultuous Meeting, and other Irregularities, of Negroes and other Slaves, and directing the Manner of trying Slaves.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, An Act to make the Testimony of Convicted Persons legal against Convicted Persons.*

An Ingressed Bill, entituled, *An Act continuing an Act, entituled, A Supplementary Act to an Act, entituled, An Act laying an Imposition on Negroes, and several Sorts of Liquors, imported; and also on Irish Servants, to prevent the Importing too great a Number of Irish Papists into this Province.*