

vice, will appear to any one, that will take the Trouble to read in the Journal of the Lower House, the Messages that passed between the Two Houses in *April 1758*; and the same Messages will shew, that so far as we thought was agreeable to Reason and common Justice, we had no Objection to their taxing the Proprietary Estate; but though we were satisfied his Lordship, from his Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and Solicitude to promote it, would cheerfully contribute his Proportion, or even somewhat more than his Proportion, of any Sums which the Inhabitants of this Province should be inclined to grant for that Purpose; yet we could not in Conscience, consent to his being subjected to so unequal a Burthen, as we observed the Majority in the Lower House were contriving to lay on him, nor did we chuse to do an Act of Injustice, lest forsooth some evil-minded, discontented Persons, should take Occasion, from our refusing to assent to a Measure, which we thought unequitable, to asperse our own Characters, or calumniate the Proprietary. If the People throughout the Province, are so universally fond of this new System (which the Gentlemen themselves admit to be an intricate one) as they would insinuate, is it not strange, that it should have so many Opponents in their own House, and that even the Members returned by the same Counties, should be divided thereupon? But was the Majority of Voters, even in every County, so captivated with it, as to have given their Representatives Instructions to grant Money on no other Terms, such a Proceeding would not have had any Influence on this House, unless their Constituents should, in such Instructions, have furnished them with Arguments sufficient to convince us, that the Bill was an equal, just and reasonable one, capable of being easily carried into Execution, and not calculated to create Disorder and Confusion among the Inhabitants, or in other Words, a Bill quite the Reverse of what it at present appears to us. As the Gentlemen in the Message which accompanied their Bill, gave us to understand, that we were to consider their permitting us to amend a Money-Bill, in the Light of a Concession, we would have taken the Opportunity to shew them, that from the first Settlement of the Province, down to the Time when the last Money-Bill was passed by this Legislature, the Upper House had, as often as Amendments to such Bills were thought expedient, exercised their Right of proposing Amendments to them, and moreover, that Money-Bills had frequently originated in this House, and often been framed by a Committee of both Houses, that this has been the constant Practice in this Province, the Records and Journals would leave them no Room to doubt; they chose therefore to wave that Matter, and unable to give a better Answer to that Part of our Message, exclaim loudly against their infatuated Predecessors and Ancestors, for not having had such Foresight, been actuated by the same Kind of Spirit, or been possessed of so large a Share of Knowledge, as these Gentlemen are pleased to think has fallen to their own Lot, for had that been the Case, they are, it seems, persuaded, that our Constitution would have been settled on a very different Plan from what it is at present; on such a one indeed, as would have vested themselves with little less than all the Powers of Government, both legislative and executive: But whatever may be the Sentiments of these Men about Forms of Government, confident are we, and we have the Satisfaction to know, that we are far from being alone in this Opinion, that the Alterations they would be for making in the Form established in this Province, would contribute very little to the Advancement of the true Interests and Happiness of the People, but on the contrary, be promotive of Tyranny and Oppression. In that Opinion of Lord Chief Justice *Pratt*, which we have already mentioned, he says, when speaking of the Lower House of Assembly's claiming a Right, because it was exercised by the House of Commons, "The Upper House should take Care how they admit Encroachments of this Kind, where they are supported by Arguments drawn from the Exercise of like Rights in the House of Commons here. The Constitutions of the two Assemblies differ fundamentally in many Respects: Our House of Commons stands upon its own Laws, the *Lex Parliamenti*, whereas Assemblies in the Colonies are regulated by their respective Charters, Usages, and the Common Law of *England*, and will never be allowed to assume all those Privileges which the House of Commons are entitled to justly here, upon Principles that neither can nor must be applied to the Assemblies of the Colonies." And again in the same Opinion, "I shall only add here, a general Piece of Advice to Lord *Baltimore*, that in this Disposition of the Lower House, to assume to themselves any Privilege which the *English* House of Commons enjoy here, his Lordship should resist all such Attempts, where they are unreasonable, with Firmness, and should never allow any Encroachment to be established upon the Weight of that Argument singly; for I am satisfied, neither the Crown, nor the Parliament, will ever suffer these Assemblies to erect themselves into the Power and Authority of the *British* House of Commons." How little Regard the Gentlemen pay to this Opinion, their Proceedings, and their Message shew: There are some among them, who want to exercise, without Control, Powers that far exceed any Claims of the *British* House of Commons, such as if they were to be once admitted, would, we are persuaded, in the End prove fatal to this Country. "We are satisfied (says the Lords of Trade, in their Report on the *Pennsylvania* Acts of Assembly, which were about two Years ago dissented to) "that there is nothing so likely to preserve the Tranquillity of the Province itself, or its De-

pendance