

Letter Bk. IV Houses to frame an Address had broke up, the Lower House signified to me that they intended to transmit a seperate one & desired me to authenticate it by giving Orders that the Great Seal might be affixed thereto. As this was a Request of a very uncommon nature, & the Step unprecedented I declined complying with it as you will see by my Message of the 2^d Inst. Not knowing what Reply to make or in what manner to enforce their Request the Leaders in the House waved the Affair at that time intending however to have the Address signed afterwards by the Speaker in proper Form, & indeed p. 196 I did not know but they had put the finishing hand to it, till after they were prorogued I was informed as I intimated to you in my Letter of the 6th Inst that tho it had been ready several Days they had either designedly or negligently postponed it till they were called to the Upper House. After the prorogation they would I am told have persuaded Col^o Hooper to sign it as Speaker & by Order of the House but could not prevail on him to do so, whereupon those Members who had voted for it agreed the next Day that each of them should subscribe their names, but as they had barely Members enough in Town to make a House (most of the Moderate Men having left them after the Assessment Bill had been voted) & several of these were averse to such an Address the Leaders could not I am told get more than about twenty Subscribers so that unless they have since sent it to some of the absent Members to be signed instead of being the Address of the Lower House of Assembly or a Majority of them it is only the Address of a few private persons in number far short of half the Members of whom that House is composed. I understand that the former part of the Address differs in a few Words only from that which I & the Gentlemen of the Upper House have joined in but it seems they have added to it the Clause which I now inclose you, wherein you will observe they complain in general Terms of Grievances owing as they would insinuate to their being under a proprietary Govern^t but cautiously do they avoid particularizing them, tho it should seem the principal ones in their opinion are that the Gentlemen of the Upper House have by rejecting the Assessment Bill opposed their Endeavours to subvert the Constitution, & will not pass their Agent's Bill which is manifestly calculated to vest the Lower House with such power as must in the End render the other Branches of the Legislature of no Consequence. As you are already apprized of the many Objections that have been made to the Assessment Bill I shall only observe that if it be agreeable to His Ldp the Gentlemen of the Upper House are very willing that what has passed between Them & the Lower House thereupon should be submitted to our Superiours not doubting