

one by whom those same Gentlemen are much influenced or in other Words that they make a Compliment of their own Judgements to a Person of whose Understanding & qualities they have an ill opinion, such are the Inconsistencies People run into when prompted to write by Envy & Resentment arising from Disappointments. Tho he has indeed always been one of my Family yet the Footing upon which he lived with me should one would think have protected him from the Epithet of menial & I am confident there is not a Gentleman in the Province acquainted with M<sup>r</sup> Ridout who does not condemn the Author for expressing himself after that manner: he is I am satisfied well esteemed by most of the principal People in the province that know him, particularly the Gentlemen of the Council & as he is with my Consent & Approbation as well as with that of M<sup>r</sup> Tasker her Grandfather & Guardian just about to make an Alliance with the Eldest Daughter of the late Governor Ogle They who may have hitherto considered him as an Alien & not interested in the prosperity of the Province will not long have an Opportunity of mentioning his Want of Connections here as either a Fault or Misfortune. It is I find the opinion of seven Gentlemen of the Council whose Sentiments I have had an Opportunity of hearing since the Piece came out that if no Body publishes an answer it will of Course be forgotten in a very short time as happened to some inflammatory & scurrilous Papers that were published here some years ago against Governor Ogle M<sup>r</sup> Jennings & old M<sup>r</sup> Dulany, & that it would be wrong since the Lower House declined taking notice of the Message to enter the Lists & combat about it with an Anonymous Scribler who being unknown may throw Dirt in the Dark without any Risk of losing his Reputation while they are clearly of opinion that the several Messages which passed between the two Houses in 1758 & 1762 will sufficiently justify their Conduct in rejecting the Bill I shall not press any one to draw up a particular answer to it but may perhaps herewith transmit to you in a seperate Paper what I think might be urged in Defence of the Upper House's rejecting both the Assesment Bill & that for the Support of an Agent, which except what relates to the Constitution of the Upper House (concerning which I expressed my Sentiments in my answers to the queries) are I think the only material Points wherein the People can be any ways interested, for as to the Claims set up by either House respecting their several Rights powers or Priviledges the people will never be thereby affected & what is said thereupon by the Remarker will not I dare say have any weight with either House nor did the Lower want such a Defender. It must perhaps be