

have been my Disappointment, in seeing both Houses alike diverted, tho from different Causes and Motives, from the true objects of their Deliberation and Attention; the one by a Spirit of Innovation, making repeated Attacks upon my rights & Prerogatives; the other, by an upright Zeal and Integrity, in Defending me against Avowed Encroachments, tho' Coloured with the most plausible pretences. The true business of Legislation in the meantime stands still, and my Poor Tenants, as the Lower House very Justly Observe, are burthened with Expences, productive of no Good to the Province, Whilst a spirit of animosity and Resentment diffuses itself every where, and amongst all orders of Men. The Affair of my Ordinary Licences &c. is what I Principally Allude to, and shall now Explain myself upon. The Priviledge of Granting and Regulating them is of the very Essence of my Prerogative, and such as every Lawyer in this Kingdom Agrees I can never be divested of without my own Consent, which I shall most certainly never give. But the Lower House will say the Lord may Licence (tho' I think of late they have held a contrary Language) & we will appropriate, this the Upper House have Denied with equal zeal & force of Argument. I will not Enter into the reasonings on either side, but when Concessions obtained from Generosity and Disinterestedness in the times of General War & Publick Calamity shall only Lay a foundation to Claims by a Body of Men, (who, constituting only one branch of the Legislature, would Assume to themselves the Priviledges of the whole) for further Concessions, when the same necessitys no longer exist, It is time for the Proprietor to Look to himself. I am sure the Assembly cannot Licence an Individual of their own Authority, nor can they Dictate to me who I shall Licence, or whether I shall ever Grant a single Licence. Equally certain am I that the Regulation of Licences when Granted is as much out of their Province. But the Incidental Emoluments arising from the Licences, and not the Empty honor of Granting them is the object. Will they Deny that my Ancestors have at times reaped these Emoluments more or less, will they Plead an uninterrupted Usage in the Assembly to Apply them at pleasure without regard to the Proprietor. If the Claims of the Proprietor & Assembly have prevailed at different Periods, & neither Party can Prescribe an Uniform Usage in their favour, are not such Claims to be Decided in the Ordinary Methods by Mutual Concessions. Have they ever Proposed to Split & Divide the Bone of Contention, and If they will not make me advances, how can they expect any from me to them. The Upper House have founded my Claim upon Just Principles, that the Support of Government lyes upon me; But say the Lower House, we