

Letter Bk. IV

again without granting any Supplies nor do I think they ever will grant any unless the Dispute subsisting between the two Houses should be determined by the Intervention of a superior Authority. The Journals of the Proceedings in both Houses during this Session being pretty voluminous I cannot send Copies of them before the June Fleet sails but I now transmit you together with an Address of the Lower House to me & my answer Copies of the Messages that passed between the two Houses on the Subject of the Money Bill & of an Address that was presented to me by the Upper House relating to those Messages. If you will be pleased to compare the Votes of the Members of the Lower House this Session with the Votes in former Sessions, You will observe that the Number of Opponents to the Assessment Bill is greatly increased & as they are in general the most sensible Men in the House there were longer & more frequent Debates upon it this Session than have ever before been during my Administration so that it was doubtful on more occasions than one whether those who for some years past have had the Management of Affairs in the Lower House would be able to carry their Points & indeed could all the Members who dislike their Schemes have constantly attended during the whole Session it is not improbable that they would in a great measure have been disappointed. When the question was depending whether they should send to the Upper House the Message which Mess^{rs} Tilghman Murdock & the other Leaders had prepared by way of Reply to that which they had received from the Upper House with their negatived Assessment Bill there was a very long & vehement Debate & most of those who spoke were against the Message nevertheless the Majority carried a Vote for its being sent, & a very extraordinary one it seems to be, calculated to make the People believe that the Miscarriage of all the Money Bills which have been offered to the Upper House is owing to some unreasonable Instruction of His Ldp's, a Notion the Faction have been constantly propagating among their Constituents tho they never before took the Liberty to assert so much in their publick Proceedings. As the long Address which the Lower House thought fit to present to me seem'd calculated to confirm the same opinion I thought it my Duty to observe in my answer that whatever those Members who were Favourers of that Bill might have suggested the Dispute was not between His Ldp & the People but between the two Houses of Assembly or rather between the People themselves for as the Gentlemen of the Upper House intimate in their Address to me the People are so much divided about it that by the same County are returned some Members who adhere to it & others