

perhaps fearing that their Creditors would be able to make such U. H. J.
 Representations To the Legislature as would hinder the passing a p. 231
 Law in their favour, have refused or Neglected to give Notice to their
 Creditors pursuant to the said Resolve, and Depended upon the to[o]
 great Indulgence heretofore used in Cases of the like Nature.

We cannot but observe that your Method of Treating us upon
 this occasion seems very Extraordinary, You tell us in your last
 Message that your House is not aware of any objection of weight
 that can be made against the Enlargement of the Prisoners other
 than they have not complied with the Resolution of our House,
 seeming not to allow it to be made upon principals of Reason & Jus-
 tice, and insinuating that proper Measures had not been taken for
 the publication of it; Whereas we conceive the Security of the Rights
 and propertys of the People which was the foundation of that
 Resolve is a Sufficient Reason to Justify the making of it; And the
 Methods before recited taken for the Publication such as were most
 likely to Effect it; This being premised, we are of opinion that was
 no other Reason for rejecting the Prisoners bill but that of their not
 Complying with the Resolve of this House it would be a Sufficient
 Justification, but the great abuse of the Lenity of the Legislature in
 cases of this Nature has Encouraged Debtors not only to Neglect the
 payment of their Debts, but to Abuse and even dare their Creditors
 to prosecute for them, & when prosecuted to Judgment and Execution
 issue, the Debtors avoid the Sheriff untill Just before a Session of
 Assembly, and then Suffer themselves to be taken on purpose to be
 Released, which they accordingly have been, altho many of them
 by their own Industry were able to pay their debts & did not deserve
 that favour

When we are thus Endeavouring to prevent such abuses as these,
 we think you cannot Justly charge us with Inflicting the Highest
 punishm^{ts} for a Non Compliance with a New Resolution Espécially if
 it be considered that the not passing the Bill for the Relief of the
 Prisoners, is not inflicting a punishment as your Message Suggests,
 but only denying an Extraordinary favour, Because we think the
 Persons desiring it are not Justly Entitled to it; To Conclude we
 cannot consent to the passing the Bills prepared by Your house for
 the Relief of Prisoners as they now Stand But if your house are
 inclined to prepare a New bill for the Relief of all Prisoners for Debt,
 which may be a standing Generall rule for the future and not Sur- p. 232
 prize either Creditor or Debtor We shall be ready to Concur in any
 proper Measures for that purpose

Signed p order John Ross Cl. Up. Ho.

The following Message being prepared is sent to the lower House
 by Philip Lee Esq^r