

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
May 3

By the Upper House of Assembly, May 3, 1756.

Gentlemen,

We have considered your Message of the 30th of April, wherein you tell us, That you think it necessary to enumerate all the Amendments you have made, in Consequence of your first Bill, that it may appear what Alterations and Concessions you have made, even contrary to your own just Rights. If your Intention herein, was, that those Alterations may appear to us, it was not necessary, unless you could imagine that we had not observed them. If it was to make them appear to others, we can't conceive how that could be fairly done, without giving them an Opportunity of comparing those Alterations with the Bills thereby altered, which remain in your own Hands. But, whatever might be your Intention in that Enumeration of your Amendments, we do not think it necessary, in a Message, to take any further Notice of them, or of the Embellishments bestowed on some of them, for Reasons that you have given us in a former Message this Session: Besides, we are still of Opinion, that whatever Alterations it may seem that you have agreed to, or whatever Concessions it may seem that you have made, yet our Objections in the most essential Points are not obviated, or sufficiently removed, especially that which relates to the Credit of, and sinking the new Emission of the Money in Five Years; and if you really, and indeed have, made any Concessions, contrary to your just Rights, p. 261 we assure you we never desired any such, or expected such a Declaration from you. We only desire, that, consistent with your just Rights and our own, and for the general Good of the People, such a Law may be obtained as may be for the Safety and Defence of us all. For these Reasons we made our Objections to the Bill you sent us, in Hopes they might have been removed.

You are now pleased to say, That you shall very cheerfully agree to a free Conference, not on the Subject-Matter of a Bill sent down with a Negative, but on the Subject-Matter of our Objections to several Bills, in order to bring about the Passage of the Bill last sent up: This seems to us to be an extraordinary Kind of Conference; for really, Gentlemen, we confess, that we do not clearly understand your Distinction: We apprehend that in order to bring about the Passage of the Bill last sent up, the Subject-Matter of that Bill ought to be considered, rather than any Objections, that we may have made to any former Bill or Bills; we are, nevertheless, willing to confer with you on the Subject-Matter of those Objections also. But you go farther, and add, Excepting, however, the Tax on Liquors consumed by Persons not being Retailers, and the Appointment of the Sheriffs to be Collectors of the Excise, as provided by the last Bill, being Points that we are determined not to depart from, and therefore cannot agree to a Conference upon: These preliminary