

Ridout having been Guilty of a Contempt of the Authority, and a Breach of the Rights and Privileges of this House, at the Bar thereof, we did issue a Warrant to our Serjeant to take him into Custody"; Thus you state the Fact; and proceed to justify it, by saying, " This we conceive to be a Right which we ought to exercise without any previous Application to your Excellency.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Oct. 11

p. 35

I will not suppose you intended to draw any Inference or Argument from your describing the Person, against whom your Serjeant was sent, by the Name of Mr. John Ridout, in your Address, when I had in my Message called him my Secretary, as if your Serjeant might have taken Mr. Ridout into Custody without depriving me of the Service of my Secretary; because, tho' you had not at the Time you issued your Warrant, known that Mr. Ridout was my Secretary, yet, when I had by my Message informing you of this Matter, called him by that Title, you could no longer remain ignorant that I was speaking of the same Person against whom you had sent your Serjeant; tho' at this Time, that no Interruption might be given to the Public Business, ever carried on, even in the most quiet Time, at a very great Expencc to the People, I might readily have admitted such Doubt as an Excuse.

But altho' it must be understood that you did know Mr. Ridout was my Secretary, you nevertheless insist that you have a Right to send your Serjeant to take him into Custody, whenever you shall be pleased to think him " Guilty of a Contempt of the Authority, or a Breach of the Rights and Privileges of your House, without any previous Application to me."

I do not propose to enter into any Debate with you upon this Point, because, as I have hitherto avoided making any Incroachments on the just and constitutional Rights and Privileges of your House, as one of the Branches of the Legislature, so am I determined not to suffer mine, while I consider myself as the Chief Branch of that Body, to be brought into Dispute, lest you should construe such a Condescension in me into a vesting you with a Right to dispute them whenever you shall think fit.

However, I would just observe to you, by Way of Information, with Regard to your Rights, that as you are one of the Branches of the Legislature, you, as well as the other Branches, have certain Rights and Privileges constitutionally annexed to you while together, which the other Branches may not interfere with, and you, as well as they, have likewise certain Servants to attend you in the Discharge of your Duty, tho' if the Matter was to be disputed, your Right to cloath that Servant, which you are pleased to call a Serjeant, with such great Authority, would not, I am apt to think, be easily made appear.

p. 36

The Gentlemen of the Upper House have likewise their Rights and Privileges; and I hope you'll be pleased to remember, that I, as