

“As the Assembly will meet again the 1st of July at farthest, the Governor will be impatient to receive your Accounts fully and clearly stated before that Time, because the Money is all expended. I before writ to you on this Matter, and left the several Papers, &c. which had been delivered in, with your Son at Conococheague.”

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 49  
Dec. 1

As, from this Letter, and the Information of Col. Thomas Cresap, now a Member of our House to whom that Letter was directed that the Account which had been under the Examination of the Committee, was one of the Papers mentioned in it, we could not but be of Opinion, that the Account which was missing, had passed thro' Mr. Ridout's Hands; and as our Clerk denied, that he had delivered it to any Person whatever, and alledged, he supposed it must have been removed by some of the Members of the Lower House; a Regard for our own Characters, as well as the Security of the Public Papers, laid us under a Necessity of calling upon Mr. Ridout, to know how he came to the Possession of that Account. Mr. Ridout came before the House, in Consequence of a Request made by our Serjeant to that Purpose; the Letter being handed to him, he was asked, if the Name subscribed was his Hand-writing; he said, he could not, or did not think proper, to answer that Question. He was asked, how the Papers mentioned in that Letter, came into his Possession; he said, the Governor's Name being mentioned in that Letter, he did not think it proper to give any Answer. He was desired to withdraw. Being called in again, he was desired to give an Answer to the Question proposed to him before; he said, he perceived by the Date, the Letter had been wrote some Time ago; said, if he might have the Letter awhile, he would reflect upon the Matter; he was told, he might have a Copy of it, and might consider it against the Afternoon. He made no Answer. He was then ordered to attend again in the Afternoon. He said, the Governor had Business for him to do (or, he had Business of the Governor's that must be done) and he must desire to be excused. He was then ordered to withdraw. In a short Time the House ordered him to be called in again; but he was not to be found. Upon this Behaviour of Mr. Ridout, so unprecedented among us, and so dangerous in it's Consequences, a Warrant of this House was issued to our Serjeant, to bring Mr. Ridout before the House, to answer for a Contempt of the Authority, and a Breach of the inherent Rights and Privileges of it. Immediately on the Meeting of the House after Dinner, the Serjeant Reported, that he went to your Excellency's, and at the common Place of Entrance, enquired of the Servant attending at the Door, if Mr. Ridout was at Home; he answered, Yes. The Serjeant asked; if he was to be spoke with; the Servant replied, he was at Dinner, but would come to him if he (the Serjeant) had any Business with him. The Serjeant said, he would not interrupt him at Dinner, but would wait on him again: The Servant replied, he (Mr. Ridout) would come to him, and desired