

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

p. 111 the Serjeant to walk in; which he did, and stood at the Top of the Steps; and the Servant went in immediately. Mr. Ridout very soon came, and stood near him, and asked the Serjeant, if he had any Business with him; upon which the Serjeant told him, he had a Warrant to take him, and carry him before the House; and was going to read the Warrant to him; and he replied, it was very well, and turned about and went away, saying, he would come again immediately; very soon afterwards Mr. Ridout came to the Door of the Room which he had gone into, and said, he (the Serjeant) must excuse him, for that he could not attend; and then went in, and shut the Door. Shortly after, the Serjeant desired a Servant Lad, who was going into the Room, to tell Mr. Ridout he should be glad to see him; the Lad returned and said, his Master ordered him to tell the Serjeant he could not attend. Immediately after, the other Servant came and told the Serjeant, the Governor desired to speak to him; upon which the Serjeant followed the Servant into the Governor's Room; the Governor immediately asked the Serjeant, what he wanted with Mr. Ridout; the Serjeant acquainted the Governor with his having a Warrant to bring Mr. Ridout before the House; the Governor said, Sir, you cannot take Mr. Ridout; he shall not attend; the Matter concerns myself, and the House should first have made me acquainted with it; and you may go and carry that Message to the Speaker; upon which the Serjeant came away immediately.

The Affair being thus circumstanced, we could not avoid in our Answer to your Excellency's Message of the 30th Day of September insisting on the issuing a Warrant to our Serjeant, to take into Custody a Person (tho' one of your Excellency's Family) who had thus contemptuously misbehaved before this House, in refusing to give Evidence, and to attend according to Order, as a Right which we conceived we ought to exercise, without any previous Application to your Excellency; and our Address was purposely so worded, that had that Message been occasioned, either by the Misbehaviour of our Serjeant, thro' Inacquaintance with the Duties of his Office, or by Inadvertence in your Excellency, to the Rights and Privileges of this House, you might have put an End to the Affair, by suffering Mr. Ridout to give Evidence before this House, and so have left us to proceed without Interruption, on the important Business, which occasioned our being called together.

We are surprized to find your Excellency so much mistaken, as to mention our apologizing for ourselves; we assure you we shall not be easily brought to make an Apology for doing what is not only right, but absolutely necessary. Our Words, out of which the Apology is endeavoured to be extorted, are, "if the Serjeant behaved in a Manner inconsistent with the Decorum that ought to be observed in your Excellency's House while you are at Dinner, it was not by any Direction of this House; and we hope, if he has been Guilty of