

L. H. J. sioned by our Lord Proprietary or Governor for that Purpose, we
 Liber No. 49 shall take no further Notice of him, or his Office, than to point it
 Dec. 1 out as an Innovation in our Constitution, to which we will not submit.

Your Excellency's having a Right in certain Cases, as the Chief Branch of the Legislature, to give Law to us, we do not clearly understand; but presume you mean the Power of Convening, Proroguing and Dissolving us, which we do not dispute. It will be Time enough to answer what you are pleased to say, of the Authority of each, over the Servants of the other Branch of the Legislature, when it appears to us, that your Excellency, in your Legislative Capacity, has a Servant necessarily and constitutionally Attendant on you, in the Discharge of your Duty; but as this is not the Case, why you should prevent a Person, you are pleased to favour with such an Appellation, from giving Evidence before our House, or endeavour to protect him, against the ancient and undoubted Authority of it, we leave to the Judgment of others.

Upon this Principle then, that your Excellency has not in your Legislative Capacity, any Servant necessarily and constitutionally Attendant on you, for the Discharge of your Duty, give us leave to say, that Mr. John Ridout (or your Secretary, or by whatever Appellation it would be most agreeable to you to have him called), appearing before our House, whether by your Consent we neither know nor think it material (though it is pretty extraordinary, that your Secretary, as you are pleased to call him, and who, 'tis probable, has not been but just appointed to his Office, should know so little of his
 p. 114 Duty, as to come before us without your Consent), we had a Right to interrogate him in the Manner we did, and to issue a Warrant to our Serjeant, to take him into Custody, for a Breach of our Rights and Privileges, in refusing to give Evidence before this House, and for a Contempt of the Authority of it, in not attending according to Order. And we must say, we are sorry your Excellency should have dropped such an Expression, as that we had no Authority over him when present, let him have behaved as he would; and we think ourselves so far from having given you any Cause of Complaint, of any Attempt in us to exercise an unconstitutional Authority, in requesting Mr. Ridout to appear before us to give Evidence, that we are satisfied we have as much Right to call him before us, as any other Gentleman that may reside in your Excellency's House, and as much Right to call one of your Family before us, as one of any Gentleman's Family in the Province.

And we must here take the Freedom to tell your Excellency, that if the calling a Gentleman in your Family, Your Secretary, and endeavouring thereby to protect him against the Authority of this House, be one of those Rights and Privileges, which you intend, whenever you shall leave this Government, to deliver up to your