

Papers they were, would give the Colonel an Answer. Upon this, another said, that indeed he had not Read the Letter, but as it seemed to be of some Consequence, he thought I ought not to be permitted to take it out of the House: He moved however, that the Clerk might be Ordered to let me have a Copy of the Letter, or of that Part of it where the Papers were mentioned. When I perceived by the Beginning of the Gentleman's Speech, what he was going to say, I offered the Letter to One that was near me, to be returned to Col. Cresap, but another Member put out his Hand and took it, and then holding it to me, asked, Whether the Name subscribed was my Hand-writing? to which I answered, Sir, I shall not think proper to Answer your Questions. In Consequence of the abovementioned Proposal, the Speaker ordered the Clerk to let me have a Copy of that Part of the Letter which related to the Papers in Question, or of the Whole, if I desired it; whereupon I said, that perhaps the other Parts of the Letter might serve to refresh my Memory, but added, that I did not, or, should not, apply for a Copy of the Whole, or a Part; and that since the Governor's Name was mentioned in the Letter, I must desire to be excused from Answering any more Questions concerning it. I was then desired to withdraw, which I accordingly did; but a short Time afterwards was sent for again, and on my Return to the Bar of the House, I was asked, How the Papers, about which I had been before examined, came into my Possession? I said, as before, that it was a great while since the Papers had been in my Hands, that it was evident from the Letter that what I had done was by the Governor's Order, and that I must therefore desire to be excused from Answering any more Questions. A Member then said, Perhaps the Gentleman imagines there is much more Intended by this Enquiry, than there really is, and therefore it may be proper to explain to him what it is the House is desirous of Knowing. I intimated to the Gentleman, that he need not take that Trouble; for that I had already Answered as much as I should think fit. After a short Pause, the Speaker said, You see, Gentlemen, that Mr. Ridout declines Answering: I suppose he may withdraw. It was then moved, that I might be Ordered however to attend in the Afternoon; whereupon the Speaker told me, that I might withdraw, but that I must attend the Sitting of the House in the Afternoon: I said, I have received Orders from the Governor to do some Business of his, in the Afternoon, and I must attend that. I was then, upon the Motion of some Gentleman, Ordered to withdraw; which I did, and returned Home, it being then about One o'Clock. What happened after this, your Excellency is no Stranger to: Had I been to give a Detail of what Passed while the Serjeant was in your Excellency's House, I should have varied a little from the Account which he is said to have given; but that Transaction is not, I apprehend, of very great Consequence.

As there are several Expressions in the Address, which has given Occasion to this Narrative, that seem to imply that the Gentlemen of

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