

erosity I am indebted for these secret Services, I have not been yet able to learn; but I must rely principally on the Justice and Candour of the Gentlemen of the Lower House, who are sensible there was not the least Foundation for such villainous Reports, to vindicate my Character, and to represent the Affair in it's true Light, to such of their Constituents as may ask them Questions concerning it."

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Dec. 15

I forbear making any more Remarks upon this unlucky Affair of Mr. Ridout's, as you call it; but shall proceed to take some Notice of that Part of your Address, where you are pleased to Declare, "That you know nothing about the Rights and Privileges of those Gentlemen, that are said to constitute another Branch of the Legislature, as it is a Branch undevised in our Charter, and unknown in it's Original;" a Declaration that differs very little, I think, from one that was made here in the Days of Governor Fendall. That Gentleman, having been opposed in some of his Measures by the Council, agreed, as it should seem, with some of the great Speakers and Leading Men among the Burgesses, to Destroy the Upper House, and Subvert the Constitution: To bring this about, it was so ordered, that the Speaker and the Members of the Lower House, should go in a Body to the Upper, and tell the Governor and Council that they could not allow them to be an Upper House, or a distinct Branch of the Legislature; but that, if they pleased, they might take Place in, and become a Part of the Lower; the Governor readily accepted the Offer, and was received as their President. The Secretary, and other Gentlemen of the Council, Protested against such a Step, as a manifest Breach of his Lordship's Rights, Royal Jurisdiction and Seignior, and desired Leave to enter their Reasons; but they were not suffered. As soon as this Affair was known in England, proper Measures were taken to restore the Constitution and Government: Another Governor was appointed, the Upper House re-assumed their Authority, Rights and Privileges, and Mr. Fendall, and the Chiefs of the Faction, were apprehended, tried, and convicted of Rebellion; their Lives were with some Difficulty spared, but the Punishment inflicted on them, by Loss of Goods and Imprisonment, was thought sufficiently Exemplary, to deter all future Governors, and Leading Men, from imitating their Conduct. p. 208

But you may still insist, that this does not at all shew, how the Upper House originally became a Branch of our Legislature, and a Part of our Constitution, I shall therefore endeavour to give you Satisfaction in that Point, hoping it will lead you to enquire after the Rights and Privileges of that House, as well as those of your own, and that it will make your Constituents less forward, for the future, to subscribe any such Petitions as were, some Time ago, put into the Hands of many of them, by several Gentlemen who were Members of the late Lower House of Assembly.