Liber No. 50 April 26

L.H.J. Caution should prevail, at a Time when your Honours allow, that Forms sought not to be so religiously observed as to defeat the Duty we owe to our King and Country, which demands, at so critical a Juncture, a full Exertion of all our Powers.

And we must observe it is a little extraordinary, that your Honours should now express your Wishes, that the Proposition made in our Message of the 12th, had come sooner, that you might have been sooner able to communicate your Sentiments, since by proceeding in the same Manner you did in the most important Case of this Sort which has before happened, you might long ago have communicated them, and you had sufficient Reason from what was then done, to be satisfied we should have shewn the utmost Readiness to do every Thing we could, consistently with our Rights and Privileges, to p. 106 have procured a Passage to either of the former Bills, or the Bill now under Consideration.

The Corrections made by us in this Bill, after we had received it with a Negative from you, and which are mentioned in our Message of the 12th, are so very trifling, that we shall not dispute whether it might be consistent with Parliamentary Modes of Proceeding, or not, to make them.

We shall now proceed to consider, and endeavour to obviate, the several Objections to the Bill, which you have been pleased to point out in your Message of the 18th.

As to the first against the Preamble, because it asserts, that only the Delegates give and grant, your Honours certainly must be satisfied, when we remind you, that it is exactly conformable to the Sale of the Land Tax Acts in England, and for that Reason we think unexceptionable.

Your Objection to our assuming (as you are pleased to call it) the sole Nomination of the Officers mentioned in the Bill, we presume is against our Rights of nominating Commissioners for executing that Part of the Bill relating to an Assessment on real and personal Estates, &c. In Support of this Right, we need only mention, that it is a Right indisputable in the House of Commons at Home: This your Honours must know, if you have ever look'd into the Land Tax Acts, where, in many of them may be found, the Names at large of all the Commissioners for the several Counties and Places in England; in others an Appointment (without naming them) of the Commissioners named in some preceding Act: The same Rights we find exercised by the Commons in the Nomination of Commissioners in Bills for examining and stating Public Accounts.

What Argument then can be drawn from his Lordship's Charter? Will it be contended that the King has granted by that Charter a Power which the Crown does not exercise, or even attempt to exercise? Surely it will not. His Lordship's Power by the Charter to