

Measure, which they should be of Opinion, would, in it's Consequences, tend to subvert the Constitution, or sacrifice one Part of the Inhabitants to the Caprice and Humour of the Rest. You will, I hope, Gentlemen, excuse the Liberty I take in just mentioning my Opinion of this Matter, nor think it assuming in me either to judge for Myself, or to intimate my Sentiments; it would indeed, be a little hard, if I alone, in such a Government as this, where every Subject thinks he has a Right to speak his Sentiments on every Matter, should be debarred the Liberty of thinking and judging of the Expediency or Propriety of any Scheme whatever, or be more afraid to communicate my Thoughts, than if I was at Venice under Awe of their State Inquisitors. Happy in knowing by Experience, that the Commission I have the Honour to bear, was given me by one who wishes not to make any Encroachments on the Liberties or Privileges of others, and conscious of the Uprightness of my own Intentions, I can venture to appeal to my Conduct for my Justification: This being the Case, I can Read, without the least Emotion, those Parts of your Address, which Discontent and Disappointment seem to have dictated, nor shall I take any Notice of your ungentee Language. If the Ministry have done nothing in Consequence of the Information I took the Liberty to give Mr. Pitt, when I intimated to him, that I was afraid no Supplies for the King's Service would be granted in this Province, unless his Majesty should be pleased to have the Dispute thoroughly examined into and finally settled, Can you, with the least Appearance of Justice, lay the Blame at my Door, or whether I am supposed to have concealed from his Majesty's Ministers the Transactions of the House of Delegates, or to have sent the Ministry a full Account of the Proceedings of that House, contained in their own Journals, will you, in either Case, take Offence at my Behaviour? If, for the Information of the Secretary of State, I had, with the Bill, transmitted that Message only, wherein the Gentlemen of the Upper House had particularized their Objections to it, I should indeed have acted disingenuously, but in sending also the Answer of the Lower House to that Message, together with the Reply, I gave the fairest and fullest Information concerning the Dispute between the two Houses that it was possible for me to give, nor do I think you could have said his Majesty or his Ministers would have determined on an *ex parte* Representation, had the Determination been upon mature Consideration of the Bill and those Messages; unless it can be supposed that those who framed the Bill, would not, when they were justifying or defending it, say every Thing they could urge on Behalf of their favourite Offspring. But, you are pleased to ask, "Have they determined the Disputes? Has any Thing ever been laid before us, pointing out in Terms precise and explicit that Branch of the Legislature which is charged with Obstinacy in adhering to their former Conduct?" And pray,

L. H. J.  
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