

your Agent Bill we have at large explained upon what Principles we are equally with yourselves entitled to One. And we refer to that Message for a clear Reputation of your Objection to our Proposal. The Case you have put to shew that our Proposal was unreasonable, may impose upon those who have not been accustomed to examine Matters of an extensive and complicated political Nature, but they who can penetrate deeper into the Subject will perceive a variety of Circumstances which ought to be maturely considered and which your short familiar Case doth not include. Wee should think that the Case might more properly be stated in this Manner. Two Men are concerned in a Joint Stock, and have a Difference of Opinion about their respective Rights, is it not just that each should be heard in settling their respective Pretentions, & equally just that if the One requires part of the common Property to support his Claims, the other should be allowed to apply an adequate part of it in his Defence? We do not say that our Case suggests a proper Idea of the Question, because there is a peculiar Complication of Circumstances arising from various political Rights which can't be comprehended in these short Illustrations. Our View we most sincerely declare in proposing the Expedient of an Agent, was to bring to a final Determination all our little Differences that these Occasions of Jealousy & of the Obstruction of the Public Business might be extinguished, and we conceive, that the Expence of maintaining Agents for this Purpose two or three Years would be amply compensated by the beneficial Consequence of having so many Bars to the Institution of useful Regulations removed, & we are unfeignedly sorry that the proposed Expedient hath been rejected upon such Pretences as do not evince that serious Regard for the Welfare and Prosperity of the Province, we expected you would on so fair an Opportunity have shewn & which would have repressed all petulant Salies of a ludicrous Humour & an Affectation of Wit which at best seems only to have consisted in some very feeble Effusion. Consistently with your candid design of giving a full & impartial Information to the Public, we presume the Bill you framed for the appointment of an Agent, will be published in Order to its being seen that, conscious of the Purity of your own Intentions, you have not had the least difficulty in trusting yourselves with a large Annual Sum of Public Money, for which you would be liable to no Account, and which you might apply to what Uses and Purposes you should think fit, for tho', in the Title & Preamble, you speak of the Appointment of an Agent, none of the enacting Clauses restrict you to that Application of the Money. And if in the Extent of your Enquiries, you can (we Speak not of Times of Turbulence and Faction) find any Instance of a like Power being asked by & vested in a British House of Commons on any Occasion, you will explain it, that none may suspect your having been actuated by any Other, than the

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p. 285