

U. H. J.
Liber No. 36
Dec. 19

most laudible Motives. Your Claim to an Allowance is indubitably a just One, and the Proposition we made proceeded not from any Opinion that you are not entitled to the legal Satisfaction of it, had the Journal passed without M^r Ross's Allowance, it would have been an effectual & irrevocable Rejection of it. The usual Manner of paying it was in the Journal with your Allowance, and as we apprehend that His & Yours ought to have been paid together, we proposed that they should still go together, and tho we did not think that other Claims were more just than his or yours, yet out of Tenderness to the Distresses of many of the Public Creditors, who had done nothing to obstruct the Passage of the Journal, we signified our Consent that they should be paid immediately, and you must in general approve of our Tenderness, tho' you may not so easily forgive an Expedient, which did not regard your Convenience, with so much Favor as it did theirs. Considering all the Claims to be just we objected to any Distinction between them, when it did not appear to be necessary for the Relief of the Distressed; but since we find that the Passage of the Journal this Session hath become desperate, we are now willing to pass your Bill for the Payment of the Expences incurred on Account of the late War, and hope you will not alter your Opinion of the peculiar Hardships of the Claimants, and of the Compassion they are entitled to, because we are desirous that they may be immediately satisfied.

If our Answer to your Message is rather desultary, the Want of Method in yours, which may be justly imputed to the Straitness of the Time in which these Matters are composed, and the same Reason subsisting in our Case, as well as the Difficulty in turning to old Journals, on a sudden Occasion, will excuse it.

p. 286 The Allowance Claimed by the Council, and by their Clerk stood upon different Grounds, the former were provided for by an express Law, and the latter upon the same Principal that the Allowance to the Clerks of the two Houses and their Committees. When the Provision made for the Members of the Council by Act of Assembly ceased, then the Practice began of giving them Allowances in the Journal, for their Attendance, it was what the Council thought they were in Equity entitled to, and what the Lower House in the Year 1736, agreed they should receive after that Time, but this Agreement tho accompanied with the plainest Assurances not being established by a positive Law, was afterwards held not to be binding, and after many Contests & on Consideration of the Inconvenience arising from them, the Council consented that no Claim of Allowance on their Behalf should any longer obstruct the Payment of any other Public Creditors; but tho they gave up their own Claim, they firmly asserted the Right of their Clerk, and the Lower House admitted it. Besides that, the Attendance of any Member of the Council is not so strictly requisite as to interfere with his other