

such a Rule to be rejected, where the essential Interests of a Community are concerned? But let us carry this Matter to its fullest Extent, and see what may be the Consequence of admitting such a Rule at all. If it is to be introduced in the present Instance, why is it to be excluded on any other Occasion? It ought then generally to be admitted, or not at all; because no Reason can be assigned for the Admission of it in one Case, which may not be extended to any other. The Rule then contended for is, that upon any Dispute between the Proprietor and People, the Proprietor is to state the Case as he thinks fit, and procure the Opinion of learned Council at home; and this being communicated to the People, is at once to silence all Objections, and to produce an implicit Acquiescence. Now even supposing the Cases to be ever so fairly stated, what would be the Consequence to the People, under the Administration of an intriguing, oppressive Proprietor? If the Opinions of Council were favourable to his Claims, no Time would be lost in communicating them to the People; but if, on the contrary, what he contended for should be thought an Invasion of the Peoples Rights (the whole Business between him and his Council being transacted in the most private Manner) the People would never hear a Syllable of the Matter, but the Opinions would be concealed, with the utmost Care, in the Sanctum Sanctorum of his Cabinet. From all these Considerations then, the Consequence is irrefragable, that the Upper House, in insisting upon the Opinion of the Attorney General, as a Matter which should operate strongly on the Proceedings of the Lower House, have endeavoured to establish a Rule, by which the People may lose all their Privileges, without the remotest Probability of gaining any Advantages; and hence we may conclude (without any farther Scrutiny into their Conduct) with what just Pretensions they assume the pompous Title of being, both by Inclination and Constitution, the Guardians of the Peoples Liberties.

Secondly, But even upon a Supposition, that the Opinion had been obtained upon a fair State of the Case by the Proprietor, I shall declare, without any Reserve, that it ought not to have had any Weight with the Lower House, farther than the Reasons adduced in Support of it might seem to carry; I mean, that it ought not to have been submitted to, as an authoritative Rule, and for this plain Reason, because the People have a Right, and indubitable Right, to appeal to His Majesty in Council. As this Right was incontestibly proved, in the last Session of Assembly, in an Address to the Governor by the Lower House; and as it is the peculiar Fate of this Colony to be excluded from the Exercise of it, they ought, instead of admitting the Substitution of any unconstitutional Authority, in the Decision of their Disputes with the Government, to adhere to this Right firmly and invariably, in full Confidence that His Majesty has too much Wisdom, and too high a Regard for the Privileges of His People,

Contemporary Printed Pamphlet Md.Hist.Soc.

p. 23

p. 24