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to determine any Points which may affect their Interests, without giving them every Opportunity, which the Principles of our Constitution may warrant, of being heard in their own Defence.

The late Lord Chancellor, in the Introduction to his Decree between the Proprietors of Maryland and Pennsylvania, declared that the Cause, in Point of Importance, was fitter for the Decision of a Roman Senate, than of a single Judge; and yet this was a Cause respecting only the private Interests of two Individuals. If Authority so respectable can be relied upon, with what Face can it be contended that a Cause, involving the most invaluable Privileges of a whole Colony of His Majesty's faithful and loyal Subjects, is to be decided by the Opinion of a private Council; And how much greater is the Absurdity, when it is asserted, that the Lower House ought to yield an implicit Obedience to such an Opinion, procured at the Instance and partial Representation of the Proprietor, of whom, in Point of sound Policy, we ought ever to be jealous.

p. 25 I have heard it frequently objected to the Lower House, that they exhibited a Proof of the greatest Obstinacy, in shewing so little Regard to the Opinion of the Attorney General; and yet I think it demonstrable, that they could not have been guilty of a greater Breach of Trust, or established a Precedent more destructive to the Peoples Liberties, had they suffered it to have any influence on their Conduct. It has, on all Occasions, been sounded in our Ears, as the Opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General, as if his Rank was to enforce our Obedience, though it cannot be regarded in any other Light than the Advice of a private Lawyer. The People of Maryland are His Majesty's Subjects. It is the Spirit of their present Representatives to suffer no Invasion of their Rights, by giving any Countenance to unconstitutional Jurisdictions. They have too high a Sense of the Duty they owe to their Constituents, to permit their most essential Privileges to be controuled or abridged, by any extrajudicial Power whatever. To His Majesty, as their common Father, they desire most ardently to appeal, and will most dutifully submit. This Point they have, for many Years, endeavoured to compass, but have always miscarried. As it is certainly the Right of His Majesty to be informed most fully in every Case which He is to decide, and of the People to lay their Complaints freely before Him, how strange is it that the Guardians of the Prerogatives of the Crown, and the Liberties of the People, should have been the constant Instruments of defeating so salutary a Measure? And how inconsistent must their Conduct appear, in violating so hastily this new-assumed Duplicity of Character?—Having then, I hope, to the Satisfaction of every considerate Reader, proved, that the Attorney General's Opinion ought not, in this Case, to have any Weight in the Scale of the Upper House, which reduces the Merits of the two
p. 26 Houses to an Equilibrium; I will now endeavour to throw some