

dreadful Hurley-burley it makes, it is nothing but an harmless Explosion of Wind. Whatever they may think of the Matter, there is a mighty Difference between Argument and Declamation, between the Evidence which reasonable Men require, and that Vehemence of Asseveration, which is so apt to impose on the Minds of the Un-thinking. How little to be envied is a Performance, the Labour of nine Days, when the whole may be refuted by a bare Denial. The Passage in Question might well be excused, for this Reason, from any Notice, had there not been an Allegation in it, which seems to have been inserted with a peculiar Malignity of Design; and that is, that the Lower House, by the Bill, have endeavoured to destroy His Majesty's Prerogatives. Upon the most diligent Attention to the Bill, in all its Parts, I cannot find the least Foundation for this Charge. In short, it seems so entirely groundless, that I might safely leave it, to be confuted by itself, to every Man of common Understanding in the Province; but it will be necessary to make some Remarks upon it, since the View of the Authors seems to extend to a remoter Region, where an Assertion, uttered with so much Confidence, might have some Chance of gaining Credit, though at the Expence of being branded, in this Part of the World, with the just Appellation of the most shameful Contempt of Truth, and the most virulent Malice. What other Motive could their Honours have, in taxing the Representative Body of Maryland with an Attempt to trample upon His Majesty's Prerogatives, but to render the Province odious in the Eyes of our Mother Country, by representing their Delegates as little better than Rebels and Traitors. This Message, as I observed before, was thrown in just as the Assembly was rising, and after the Lower House had given the Governor Notice that no public Business lay before them; so that they could have no Opportunity of replying to it, although they were loaded with the most injurious Calumnies. One would have expected an Extract of some Clauses from the Bill, to support a Charge of so heinous a Nature; but as there was nothing of this Kind in it, they have very boldly asserted it, relying upon the Credulity of the People in England, and the Supineness (of which they have had too much Experience) of those who have had a peculiar interest in obviating and exposing such cruel and groundless Reproaches.

For the Ease of the Person who shall undertake to answer these Remarks (if any Answer should be deemed expedient) I will lay before him, in one View, this and sundry other Allegations, of a like Tendency, interspersed up and down in the Message of the Upper House, which I humbly apprehend to be entirely groundless, and do call upon him, in this public Manner, to produce his Proofs in Support of them, by Passages extracted from the Bill, viz. That the Lower House never intended to raise Supplies for His Majesty's Service, unless at an Expence which His Majesty would consider as beyond all Proportion above their Worth.

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