

Contemporary Printed Pamphlet
Md.Hist.Soc.

That by rejecting the Bill, they (the Upper House) supported His Majesty's Rights against Usurpation.

p. 36 That by assenting to the Bill, they should give up his Majesty's Prerogatives, subvert the present Constitution, and introduce the numberless Evils consequent upon all the Powers of Government being lodged in the Hands of the Lower House.

That the Lower House would give no Assistance, unless purchased at the extravagant Price of His Majesty's Prerogatives, and the Peoples Liberties thrown into their Hands by the Bill.

That the total Subversion of our present Constitution was intended by the Bill, and lodging the several Powers thereof in the Hands of the Lower House.

If those Charges can be fixed on the Lower House, I think their Conduct liable to the severest Censures, and the Men who have been instrumental in promoting such Measures, deserve the most signal Marks of his Majesty's Displeasure, as well as the Contempt and Abhorrence of all their Fellow Subjects. But if, on the other hand, these hardy Allegations are not to be supported by any Thing in the Bill, what do their Honours deserve for such cruel and ungenerous Misrepresentations? Could nothing less gratify their Spleen against a particular Sett of Men, who happen to differ from them in political Sentiments, than the Imputation of Schemes and Designs to strip His Majesty of His Prerogatives, and to subvert the present Constitution? What is this short of charging the Representatives of the People of Maryland with being downright Traitors and Rebels? When Parties run high (which, God knows, is the unhappy Case of Maryland at present) great Allowance is to be made for the sudden and extemporaneous Starts of Passion, in the personal Contests and Altercations which may happen among the

p. 37 Abettors of different political Opinions; but in this Case there is no such alleviating Circumstance. A Body of Men, a Branch of Legislature, distinguished by the Appellation of The Honourable, affecting, in Point of Constitution, a Similarity with the House of Peers of Great-Britain, and claiming higher comparative Privileges than they pretend to exercise, after a profound and solemn Deliberation of nine Days, are at last delivered of a low, pitiful Rhapsody, teeming with Billingsgate Invective contemptible for a Diction perplexed, creeping and insipid, and totally void of Argument, Truth, and Parliamentary Decorum. Similes habent labra lactucas; such Lips, such Lettuce, said the Philosopher, on seeing an Ass mumbling a Thistle; such a Subject, such Penmen, say I; in Truth they are well matched, and God grant so wretched a Cause may never find more able Advocates. If the Objects of the Bill had been a total Subversion of the Constitution, the Destruction of His Majesty's Prerogatives, and a Usurpation of all the Powers of Government, I dare say they would not have escaped the Animad-