

tion, seem to think it so.—“If you have no Foundation for this Behaviour, what Regard will any Thing you say deserve?” The Truth is, the Lower House were anxious that their Bill for His Majesty’s Service might pass into a Law, and when Men are sanguine in the Pursuit of a particular Object, it is a very common Frailty to be buoyed up with fallacious and delusive Hopes. This is however catching at less than Straws, for the Expression is, not that they hope, but that they are willing to hope. But whatever Opinion the Lower House might entertain of the Disposition of the Upper House, with regard to the Passage of the Bill, I do not think the Merits of the Cause in the least influenced thereby, since their own Persuasion of its Preference to every other Plan, will afford a sufficient Vindication of their Perseverance, till His Majesty, to whose Decision they have always been desirous of submitting, shall shew a different sense of it. But to return to the Point.—

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It is as difficult for me to believe, that their Honours are, from the Nature of their Constitution, the Guardians and Protectors of the Peoples Rights, as that they acted with that independent Spirit they profess, when they tamely acquiesced under the Appointment of a menial Scrivener, with Qualities that have rendered him generally obnoxious to the Province, to become a Member of their illustrious Body. They should have given some Indications of a Spirit to support their own Dignity and Weight, in which they are so much interested, before they can rationally expect from the People the least Credit to the warmest Professions of Regard for their Interest, to which they have no Sort of political Tie. They should have acted upon the good old Maxim—Principiis obsta, and firmly remonstrated against so insulting a Measure, instead of whispering their Complaints and Discontents in a Corner. They should have considered, that the Influence of Example is generally from bad to worse, and that the next Step (according to the Rules of Gradation) might probably have ushered into his Lordship’s Council some of that respectable Body of Men, vulgarly called Footmen; so that in Time the honest, well-meaning People of Maryland, might be blessed with most hopeful Guardians and Protectors. A spirited Representation to the Proprietor, or a seasonable Secession from the Board, must have defeated this little Upstart Favourite, degraded him to his primæval Meanness and Obscurity, and prevented in future the like Attempts upon the Honour of the Proprietor, the Dignity of Government, and that Rank and Character which their Honours ought to endeavour to support in the State. Had they acted in this Manner, they would have given a much stronger Proof of their Independency, than by the most vehement verbal Declarations.—But as to their Claim of being the constitutional Guardians and Protectors of the Peoples Rights, it is a Proposition rather too hard of Digestion; no Man can assent to it, without renouncing

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