U. H. J. Liber No. 36 Dec. 16

Members of a distinct Branch of the Legislature, by whom you are as little entrusted as we are by our Constituents, and whom none of your Measures can constitutionally bind without our actual Consent and Approbation, a Law therefore imposing a Tax upon all exported Tobacco, and thereby drawing a Contribution from the Property of the Members of the Upper House, vesting the Sole Power, without any Participation of any other Branch of the Legislature, in your House of applying the Revenue arising from the Tax in which Manner and to whatever Purpose you should think proper without Controul or Account, would be an Innovation incompatible with the Spirit of Equity and of our Constitution, by depriving us of the Right we have to be consulted in the Application of our Property, and in the Introduction of all new Regulations which may in any Respect affect us or our Posterity, and instead of leaving us the Check and Defence we now have against every injurious Attempt, by sinking us even below the Level of the lowest qualified Freeholder or Mechanic. If the End for which you are desirous to support an Agent, is the Benefit of every Order and Rank among us, why should we be excluded from the Nomination of Him or the Consideration of the Propriety or Inexpediency of the Measures which may be proposed for the Accomplishment of it? If the End should be such that a Contrariety of Opinion, and an opposition consequent upon it, may be naturally expected, your End is what we should object to if declared, and would it be equitable that you should be furnished with all the Means to enforce your Pretentions, and that we should be deprived of the Means to defend ours? If any material Alteration of your Constitution of Government is your View, would you wish it to take Place unless it might redound to the Welfare of your Country? May you not be mistaken in your Sentiments on this Head, & is it not for the common Interest that the Subject may be fully discussed and that all who may be affected in the Settlement may be equally and fairly heard? Why we have dissented to the Bill you sent us, as the Preamble of it expresses "for supporting an Agent resident in London for managing the
p. 261 Affairs and taking Care of the Interests of the People here and making Application to our Gracious Sovereign the Parlement, or the Lord Proprietary as the Case may require" we have already declared, & the Reasons we have given in Support of this Dissent will explain our Motives in making the following Propositions.

We propose that One Agent may be appointed by the two Houses, and the Revenues to arise from the Tax upon Tobacco may be subject to their joint Application. should not this Proposition be agreeable, we propose that each House may have an Agent, & a Sum of Money in their Power applicable to his Support and further, if you please that an Account of their respective Application of the said Monies be exchanged Annually between the two Houses and presented to the Publick View.