

for a Contempt of the Authority, and a Breach of the inherent Rights and Privileges of it. Immediately on the Meeting of the House after Dinner, the Serjeant Reported, that he went to your Excellency's, and at the common Place of Entrance, enquired of the Servant attending at the Door, if Mr. Ridout was at Home; he answered, Yes. The Serjeant asked, if he was to be spoke with; the Servant replied, he was at Dinner, but would come to him if he (the Serjeant) had any Business with him. The Serjeant said, he would not interrupt him at Dinner, but would wait on him again: The Servant replied, he (Mr. Ridout) would come to him, and desired the Serjeant to wait in; which he did, and stood at the Top of the Steps; and the Servant went in immediately. Mr. Ridout very soon came, and stood near him; and asked the Serjeant, if he had any Business with him; upon which the Serjeant told him, he had a Warrant to take him, and carry him before the House; and was going to read the Warrant to him; and he replied, it was very well, and turned about and went away, saying, he would come again immediately; very soon afterwards Mr. Ridout came to the Door of the Room which he had gone into, and said, he (the Serjeant) must excuse him, for that he could not attend; and then went in, and shut the Door. Shortly after, the Serjeant desired a Servant Lad, who was going into the Room, to tell Mr. Ridout he should be glad to see him; the Lad returned and said, his Master ordered him to tell the Serjeant he could not attend. Immediately after, the other Servant came and told the Serjeant, the Governor desired to speak with him; upon which the Serjeant followed the Servant into the Governor's Room; the Governor immediately asked the Serjeant, what he wanted with Mr. Ridout; the Serjeant acquainted the Governor with his having a Warrant to bring Mr. Ridout before the House; the Governor said, Sir, you cannot take Mr. Ridout; he shall not attend; the Matter concerns myself, and the House should first have made me acquainted with it; and you may go and carry that Message to the Speaker; upon which the Serjeant came away immediately.

The Affair being thus circumstanced, we could not avoid (in our Answer to your Excellency's Message of the 30th Day of September) insisting on the issuing a Warrant to our Serjeant, to take into Custody a Person (tho' one of your Excellency's Family) who had thus contemptuously misbehaved before this House, in refusing to give Evidence, and to attend according to Order, as a Right which we conceived we ought to exercise, without any previous Application to your Excellency; and our Address was purposely so worded, that had that Message been occasioned, either by the Misbehaviour of our Serjeant, thro' Inacquaintance with the Duties of his Office, or by Inadvertance in your Excellency, to the Rights and Privileges of this House, you might have put an End to the Affair, by suffering Mr. Ridout to give Evidence before this House, and so have left us to proceed without Interruption, on the important Business, which occasioned our being called together.

We are surprized to find your Excellency so much mistaken, as to mention our apologizing for ourselves; we assure you we shall not be easily brought to make an Apology for doing what is not only right, but absolutely necessary. Our Words, out of which the Apology is endeavoured to be extorted, are, "if the Serjeant behaved in a Manner inconsistent with the Decorum that ought to be observed in your Excellency's House while you are at Dinner, it was not by any Direction of this House; and we hope, if he has been Guilty of the least Intrusion or Indecency, your Excellency will impute it to his being but just appointed to his Office." This is an Apology for the Serjeant's Behaviour, as represented by your Excellency, but we do not think it is one for any Conduct of ours, nor do we think it needs any.

We are far from being disposed to have it believed, that our Serjeant may at any Time, except when you are at Dinner, enter your House, and take any Person from thence we may order him; and could we have thought any Circumstance had been thrown into your Message, without Meaning or Design, we should have passed over that of your being at Dinner; but common Decency obliged us, when we were apologizing to your Excellency for our Serjeant, to make the Apology as circumstantial as you had made the Accusation.

We do not know of any such Officer as a Governor's Secretary, nor ever heard of such in this Government; and therefore (and not by Way of Excuse) we spoke of the Gentleman against whom a Warrant was given to our Serjeant, by the Name of Mr. Ridout; and we hope a new Officer is not

to be created within this Government by your Excellency's Messages informing us any Gentleman is such; and we cannot look upon Mr. Ridout as any Thing more than a Gentleman supported by your Excellency, or perhaps his Lordship, for your Convenience and Assistance in Writing.

Whether we have a Right to order our Serjeant to take a Governor's Secretary into Custody, or not, it is Time enough to dispute, when there is one legally commissioned (which we apprehend cannot be without the Consent of the Legislature) and duly qualified.

We do not desire to bring your Excellency's just and constitutional Rights, while you are the Chief Branch of our Legislature, into Dispute; nor will we tamely suffer ours to be violated or infringed.

What your Excellency is pleased to observe to us, by Way of Information, as to our Rights and Privileges as one Branch of the Legislature, may be New to you, but we assure you it is not so to us. What are the Rights and Privileges of those Gentlemen, that are said to constitute another Branch, we know nothing about; as it is a Branch undevolved in our Charter, and unknown in its Original. We with Pleasure acknowledge, that your Excellency, as a Branch of our Legislature, has Rights and Privileges, which we have neither Power or Desire to exercise; but that you have any Servant constitutionally Attendant upon you, in your Legislative Capacity, in the Discharge of your Duty, we must deny; and we hope your Excellency will never insist, that a Person not having a Commission, or Public Appointment or Nomination, or any Thing more than a bare private Appellation, and one that never even underwent the Qualification necessary to distinguish him to be a loyal Subject, that we can find, should be looked on as such; and if any Person were to be commissioned by our Lord Proprietary or Governor for that Purpose, we shall take no further Notice of him, or his Office, than to point it out as an Innovation in our Constitution, to which we will not submit.

Your Excellency's having a Right in certain Cases, as the Chief Branch of the Legislature, to give Law to us, we do not clearly understand; but presume you mean the Power of Convening, Proroguing and Dissolving us, which we do not dispute. It will be Time enough to answer what you are pleased to say, of the Authority of each, over the Servants of the other Branch of the Legislature, when it appears to us, that your Excellency, in your Legislative Capacity, has a Servant necessarily and constitutionally Attendant on you, in the Discharge of your Duty; but as this is not the Case, why you should prevent a Person, you are pleased to favour with such an Appellation, from giving Evidence before our House, or endeavour to protect him, against the ancient and undoubted Authority of it, we leave to the Judgment of others.

Upon this Principle then, that your Excellency has not in your Legislative Capacity, any Servant necessarily and constitutionally Attendant on you, for the Discharge of your Duty, give us Leave to say, that Mr. John Ridout (or your Secretary, or by whatever Appellation it would be most agreeable to you to have him called), appearing before our House, whether by your Consent we neither know nor think it material (tho' it is pretty extraordinary, that your Secretary, as you are pleased to call him, and who, 'tis probable, has not been but just appointed to his Office, should know so little of his Duty, as to come before us without your Consent), we had a Right to interrogate him in the Manner we did, and to issue a Warrant to our Serjeant, to take him into Custody, for a Breach of our Rights and Privileges, in refusing to give Evidence before this House, and for a Contempt of the Authority of it, in not attending according to Order. And we must say, we are sorry your Excellency should have dropped such an Expression, as that "we had no Authority over him when present, let him have behaved as he would;" and we think ourselves so far from having given you any Cause of Complaint, of an Attempt in us to exercise an unconstitutional Authority, in requesting Mr. Ridout to appear before us to give Evidence, that we are satisfied we have as much Right to call him before us, as any other Gentleman that may reside in your Excellency's House, and as much Right to call one of your Family before us, as one of any Gentleman's Family in the Province.

And we must here take the Freedom to tell your Excellency, that if the calling a Gentleman in your Family, Your Secretary, and endeavouring thereby to protect him against the Authority of this

House, be one of those Rights and Privileges, which you intend, whenever you shall leave this Government, to deliver up to your Successor; we hope it will be rejected as unknown and unconstitutional in this Government.

We would not willingly, from what is past, conclude your Excellency has been "endeavouring to conceal any Thing from our Knowledge," which it may be proper we should know; if the disinterested Reader should, we cannot help it. The Assistance heretofore given by you to the Lower House of Assembly, in their public Consultations, would have afforded us some Reason, to have expected you would have pursued the same Conduct now, had not this unlucky Affair of Mr. Ridout's, convinced us of the contrary; and there seems but too much Room to apprehend, that had we, before we sent to request Mr. Ridout to attend, addressed your Excellency upon the Occasion, you would have judged the Subject improper for the Knowledge of the Public, and we should have had as little Satisfaction, upon the Point of our Enquiry, as we are like to have at present.

After the View your Excellency was pleased to give us, of the Rights of the several Branches of the Legislature, with regard to each other; and your Sense of our Treatment of you, in the Person of the Gentleman you were pleased to distinguish by the Appellation of your Secretary, it is no Wonder you should conclude with intreating us to give the Matters you recommended to our Consideration an immediate Place in our Deliberations, and putting us in Mind of the heavy Load, the making suitable Provision for those Services, must necessarily lay upon the People; that it behoved us the more to lighten their Burthens, in other Respects; and that we might greatly contribute to it, by diligently attending the Public Business, and carefully avoiding all such Steps as could only tend to protract the Session; as you might possibly entertain Hopes, by that Means, totally to draw off our Attention from a Vindication of our Rights and Privileges. And we must here take the Freedom to observe, that tho' the Time spent in public Enquiries, in Endeavours for Redress of the Grievances the People labour under, and in the Support of the Rights and Privileges of this House, must necessarily lay upon them an heavy Burthen; yet, we are well assured, by the People themselves, that as they plainly see it unavoidable, they shall cheerfully submit to it, as the lesser Evil.

And, may it please your Excellency, as we have, with all the Dispatch in our Power, done what is incumbent on us, towards making Provision for the Services recommended to us, we shall hope for the full and uninterrupted Enjoyment of our Rights and Privileges, while we proceed on such other Matters as we think may tend to the public Good.

Decemb. 2, 1757.

HENRY HOOPER, Speaker.

[The GOVERNOR'S ANSWER to be in our next.]

LONDON, September 25.

Extract of a Letter from Leghorn, September 4.

THE Progress which the Malecontents of Corsica have made, since the Appearance of the English Fleet off that Island, is considerable. Paoli has got together upwards of 40,000 Men, with which he seems resolved to besiege Bastia. On this Occasion M. de Vaux, the French Commandant in that Island, sent a very imperious and ridiculous Message to Paoli, demanding the Reasons of his Behaviour, in attacking a Place garrisoned by French Troops. To which Paoli made a very sensible and spirited Answer, telling, that had a Genoese Governor asked him the Question, he should have returned him a satisfactory Answer; but that, for that very Reason on which De Vaux grounded his Authority of Demand, he thought himself justified in refusing to be at all accountable to him for his Proceedings. That they were in Arms against their Tyrant Masters the Republic of Genoa, who only had the Authority to call them to Account. That they were resolved to admit no fresh Usurpations; and that so far from thinking any Respect due to the French Troops, as such, the resolute Corsicans, on the contrary, should esteem them as the intermeddling Tools of Tyrants, and should exert themselves to dispossess them of the Footing already got in the Island. And that, for the future, he should expect no more of the like impertinent Messages from those who, being Slaves themselves,

were on all Occasions ready to reduce like Condition. The French Comded at this stinging Reply, has declared at this stinging Reply, has declared Enemies to the Grand Monarque, patched an Account to France, by Port, complaining in high Terms of the Corsican Chief, who he accused of threatening to throw his Me Window."

October 1. The learned Dr. B. hear, for fourteen successive Nights, Comet from the Royal Observatory. It is scarcely visible by the naked Eye with the Help of a double Telescope the Tail is discernable. It appears the Tail is discernable. It appears the Comet foretold, except on, which proves contrary to what is and is towards the Sun, with very

October 4. A remarkable Affair board Admiral Waton's Ship at the French Settlement in the East-Engagement, a young Gentleman behaved himself so well, that was over, the Admiral complimented took his Sword from his Side, a Pretent of it, telling him, it was always had in his Hand in the Time

Extract of a Letter from an Officer of the Ship Kent, dated at River Bengal, April 8, 1757. "We have taken Chandena Settlement, with the Loss on our killed, or since dead, and about The Syger suffered almost as bad, in the Kent's Sides 138 Shot, and both Sides. During the whole Admiral Waton was very cool, and ed in Regard to himself; and that an Officer with a Glass was to point a Gun at him, and the for that Purpose; he answered, shall have a fair Shot;" blood went on after the Bill had passed

The Court has sent to all the with foreign Princes and States Declaration:

"The King being informed tations made by Mr. Mitchell, certain Overtures made by his Ministers, in Consequence of Germany, hath directed it to be Minister of the King of Prussia, the Intention of his Majesty, thioned Overtures, made without of the British Council, should Influence upon his Majesty's he sees precisely in the same I the pernicious Union between the and Versailles, which menaces on of the System of public L dependence of all the Powers of siders as one of the fatal Confe generous a Conjunction, that th has already delivered the Ports tries into the Hands of France Faith of the most solemn Treat so critical as the present, wh Fate of Arms, his Majesty is d the closest Concert with the order to frustrate, by the mo the unjust and oppressive Desig Enemies; and the King of Pru that the British Crown will co lossly to fulfil its Engagemen Majesty, and to support them Vigour. Done at Whitehall,

Sunday a poor Woman, wh All in the Purchase of a Lot quiry at an Office, found it ha Prize, the sudden News of Effect upon her, that she Floor, and it was with grea Bleeding and other Assistance to herself; but she remains Recovery is doubtful.

An Eighth Share of one was the Property of a Cob Castle Street, near the Mew Money for his Share, shut preparing to return to his own

One of the Ten Thousand longs to a set of Ticket-Port of St. Paul's. They imm Knots, old Hats, and Knot have very honestly paid off th

Another of the Ten Th longs to Six Milk-Women Three Shillings and Six-P Tickets.