

326
writing & compel him to answer to such Questions as they may at
any time have the Curiosity to ask. I believe I need not say much
to convince His Ld^{ty} or Yourself of the Impropriety of my sub-
mitting to a Claim or Demand of this Nature & I flatter myself
that the Steps I took on the Occasion will meet with Your
Approbation. Tho' it was not thought necessary to mention it in
my Message I think fit to intimate to You that altho' Mr. Pidd
had not any Leave to attend the Lower House of Assembly yet that
he first advised with the Gent^l of the Upper House that hap-
-pined to be sitting when he was sent for. It was supposed that
the Lower House only wanted to ask him a trivial Question or two
about an Election that was controverted but when they pressed
him to answer to other Matters he desired to be excused for the
Reasons mentioned in my last Message to the House on the Oc-
-casion. You will observe that I declined entering into a Con-
-troversy with the House about their Right to send for other Persons
to their Bar as much as I possibly could, but by insisting that my
Family is not & cannot be subject to their Jurisdiction I have imbi-
-mated to others that they may dispute their Authority likewise since
the House have themselves thought proper to put my Family
& all private Gentlemen's Families exactly on the same Footing.
It is a Maxim with me that it is the Duty & Interest of the
Supreme Magistrate in such a Gov^t as this especially to support the
Dignity & of the Inferiour Branches of the Legislature ^{as well as} the
Courts of Judicature because these in their Turn support the Dig-
-nity