

To W<sup>m</sup>. Sharpe Esq. the 5. of Jan'y.

I<sup>d</sup> In my Letter dated the 10 of Sept. I told You that I was then about to meet the Assembly of this Province, once more, in hopes of getting from them further Supplies for the Support of the 500 Men, which had been raised here, for His Majesty's Service, & the more immediate Defence & Protection of our Frontier Inhabitants. On the 20 of that Month the Assembly met but instead of proceeding on the Business that I had recommended, to them the Gentlemen of the Lower House, took it into their Heads to send for my Secretary in order as they alledged, afterwards to get Evidence against their Clerk whom they pretended to suspect of a Breach of Trust in delivering Papers out of the House without their Knowledge, but it is now evident that they only wanted to establish a Precedent that they might afterwards require Mr. Ridout to attend when ever their Curiosity should incline them to ask Questions about any Affairs that his Connection with me should give him an Opportunity of knowing. As it was at first supposed that they wanted no more than to ask a trivial Question at two about an Election which had happened here a few Days before & was then controverted, Mr. Ridout made no Difficulty of waiting on the House agreeable to the Speaker's Advice having first advised with some Gent<sup>l</sup> of the Council who were walking on the Parade where our Publick Buildings are placed. What ensued You will learn from the inclosed Address & Message, which I thought proper to send You lest any well minded persons should make it their Business to represent this Affair in a false Light. Our Lower House of Assembly has indeed of late Years claimed a Right of calling before them any Person they thought proper & their Commands have been generally obeyed tho' as generally exclaimed ag<sup>t</sup> as oppressive; Magistrates have been haled before them to answer for Offences they were never guilty of & to gratify the private Pique & Resentment of any particular Member Gentlemen have at any time been put to a great Deal of Trouble & Expence. They assumed all the Powers of a British House of Commons & have for some Years been exercising those Powers in such a manner as tended to render all the inferiour Courts of Judicature, contemptible or subversive to their purposes; before this time however they had not presumed to muddle with any one of a Governour's Family nor did they pretend any Authority over the Gent<sup>l</sup> of the Council so far as to call them before the House till the present Session on Occasion of the