

have thought the Person deserved to be Punished; but to be disqualified to enjoy any Place of Profit or Trust for such an Offence, seems to me to be a Punishment somewhat too severe: Suppose a Person had reflected on the whole Upper House of Assembly, and even the Proprietor himself, and this should be laid before your House, and clearly proved, would you think the Person thus Offending disqualified to be a Member of your honourable House, or to enjoy any Place of Profit and Trust under your Direction? I hope you would be more forgiving; for my own part, I can truly say, I have forgiven many such Offences against myself, and given the Persons too that committed them very good Places, without any view, as you will readily believe, of rewarding them for what they had done.

I must confess myself truly sorry to hear from the Lower House of Assembly, that my good Resolutions, so often published, have been Frustrated and rendered Void, by the Malevolent Influence of evil Councils, but I must be so candid as to say, that I should be much more so, was I conscious to myself of the Truth of this severe Reflection; in whatever Light this Language may be looked upon, I believe I may very justly say, that it is not reasoning, but may be employed with the same Force in the worst Cause in the World, as well as the best, for which Reason I hope I shall never be fond of imitating it: May I not ask what *malevolent Councils* threw out the Revenue Bill, hindered our Paper Money to pay the Clergy and Officers, and even now prevents our making it truly useful and valuable to the Country? Or what other Mischief it is that these same *evil Councils* have done? Whenever you please to enter into particulars, you may be assured that you shall have no Interruption from me in your enquiry either into real or imaginary Grievances, and whatever of the former sort shall appear, I am sure no Man in the Province will be more ready to Redress than myself; but I hope I may say, that general Expressions of Avarice and Ambition in Officers, of poor Peoples sinking under the Yoke of Bondage, being brought to a state of Villenage, &c. are so far from being any Proof of them, that they must be allowed a strong Presumption to the contrary, by every candid and judicious Man, such general Reflections being oftener made use of to darken Truth, than to place it in a fair and open Light.

I agree with you that this Government has for some time past pursued it's own Profit and Benefit, and really believe it will continue to do so in all Times to come, and presume the Lower House of Assembly will do the same; but hope that this will never prevent our promoting