

with Atheism and Free-Thinking, A People complaining of real Aggrievances, have been called Malcontents, and Persons exposing the oppressive Practices of Officers, said to want the Offices for themselves. There is no Way that we know, of guarding against such Imputations, but by People's sitting still and saying nothing, let the Occasion of Speaking or Acting be ever so great; however, that the World may judge of the grounds of what we have said in this Matter, we beg leave to put a Case, which we hope can give your Honours no Offence; Suppose then the Noble Personages who compose the House of Peers in *Great Britain*, held their Seats there at the Pleasure of the Prince, and that he could Place and Displace them when he thought fit; Suppose them also Possessors of all the great Offices in the Government upon the same precarious Terms, Could the People have any great reason to boast of their Happiness in such a Constitution? Could that be called a free and independent Branch of the Legislature, who should keep a Balance between the Prince on the one side, and the People on the other? Or could it with any colour of Reason be said, that a House so constituted and so endowed, enjoyed all freedom of Action, and was at all times clear from any Restraint? And altho' from his present Majesty's known Goodness they could in such case be in no Danger, yet what would not many Princes who have Reigned heretofore have done with the Assistance of such a House of Peers? If this case be applicable to any part of our Constitution, then we presume there is no Foundation for your Answer; but if on the other hand, there is no similitude between the Two, we shall allow the World has reason to believe all we have said on that head, to proceed from no other cause than the want of your Offices.

If your Honours will be pleased to look again into our Message, you will find that we did not propose the Bill for Arms and Ammunition generally, for any Sum or for any Number of Years with a fixed Determination, but only for such Sum as the Trade could bear, and for such a Term as the necessity of the present Juncture might require, and therefore if you are so much influenced with Desires for his Majesty's Service, as you often express, we hope our offer of that Bill for *Six Pence*, or any lesser Sum that may be thought needful, instead of the *Three Pence*, and to continue to the 29th Day of *September* which shall be in the Year of our Lord God 1742, will not be rejected, for that we think it much more conducive to that Service and our Safety at this Time, inasmuch as greater Sums will thereby be raised in less Time; and altho' that Duty will be higher than has usually been given for the same Purpose, yet if the present necessity be so urgent as you represent it, we hope the People will not be displeas'd with