

plain Answer, for you say that ‘ if *this Case* (the Case of the House of Peers) ‘ be applicable to any Part of our Constitution, then you presume there is no Foundation for our Answer, but if on the other hand there is no Similitude between the Two, you shall allow the World has Reason to believe all you have said on that Head has proceeded from no other Cause than the want of our Offices:’ We presume you would not liken this House to a House of Peers, or allow the Members of it any of the Privileges of Lords of Parliament; and we hope, no other Part of the Legislature will assume a Parity between themselves and the Lords of Parliament; so that your Case is not applicable, and consequently from your own Concession ‘ what you have said has proceeded from the want of our Places;’ but further, *Gentlemen*, you will be pleased to consider, that your Objection of our Dependency, *because* we are removable, reflects on the Wisdom and Prudence of the Constitutions of the Legislative Powers in every of his Majesty’s Plantations, where (except *Pennsylvania*) we have always understood, there are Councils, with the Power of a Negative on all Bills, and that the Members are removeable at the King’s, and to be suspended at the Governor’s, Pleasure; and as to the Places, we presume the same Qualities of Integrity and Ability which recommend Men to a Place in an Upper House or Council, renders them also worthy of the best Places in the Government: But, were we to come to a strict Consideration of the Difference between our Legislative Constitution and that of *Great Britain*, it would be obvious, that it principally arises from the nature of a dependent and independent Government, and if the several Branches of the Legislature would on all Occasions keep this Dependency in their Eye, they would certainly be more easy amongst themselves, and less troublesome to others; since they must be sensible their Sovereign is the Judge, and will never approve any Behaviour or Act of the Legislature, or any Branch of it, for any other Reason than that of it’s being just and reasonable.

We have looked again into your Message, and find the Proposal of your Alternatives in these very Words, *viz.* ‘ As it is uncertain how long War with *Spain* will continue, or how soon another with *France* may begin, if not already proclaimed, had your Honours proposed the double or any other Sum larger than the *Three Pence*, that our Trade could possibly bear, or had a longer Time of Duration been mentioned to the Bill, so as it had a fixed Time of Determination, we would and are now ready to agree to either, as the Necessity of the present Juncture may require;’ Has not the Delay, not only of this Bill, but of all other Business been entirely occasioned by the Dispute between the two Houses,