

Thursday Morning, June 5. 1740.

THE House met according to Adjournment, &c.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the following Answer from the Governor to the Address of this House presented Yesterday, viz.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

I Have considered your Address, delivered to me yesterday by Mr. Speaker, with all the Carefulness and Attention that I am capable of, and must candidly own to you, that it seems to me rather composed in a specious manner, to throw some Blame on the Upper House and Myself, in relation to the Dispute between the Two Houses, than to place the said Dispute in an exact Light, as it stands in the several Messages that passed on the Subject.

For to avoid all unnecessary Words, the sole Point in Dispute appears by the said Messages to be plainly this, whether you did right in keeping back a Bill, which had been agreed on by the Conferees of both Houses, and approved of by each House, in order to oblige the Upper House to Pass your Bills on their Table in what manneryou pleased.

The Upper House insists upon it that you did not Act right, and that such a Proceeding has a plain Tendency to render the Upper House not only an useles but a ridiculous Branch of Legislature, since it would make their Submission absolutely necessary to what you should be pleased to exact from them.

Thus stands the Dispute between the Two Houses, nor can I find by any of the Messages, or otherwise, that the Upper House ever intended to deprive you of one Bill grateful to the People, but that those Bills and the others for the necessary Support of Government should go hand in hand, as you say your desire is.

As for myself, I must own I did express my Concern and Surprize, at your keeping back a Bill so formally agreed upon, but what you mean by saying " that the same Conduct in the Upper House is said by me to " be reasonable," I must confess myself wholly at a loss to know, not being able to recollect, that either House ever did the like Thing before, however they may have kept back other Bills not agreed to by Conferees of both Houses, which I believe indeed has been a common Practice in both Houses.

But what surprizes me the most of all is, your saying " it gives you no " small Concern that after the most solemn Protestations and Assurances " you have given to the contrary, you should by me be suspected of an " Intention to keep back the Bill for Arms and Ammunition," when in fact the whole Dispute depends upon your declaration of your Resolution to keep back the said Bill until the Upper House should send down to you
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