

to his Majesty's Service, and which could not with Safety be denied, when offered by this House: Those Laws with many others which particularly concerned the general Utility of the People and Administration of Justice having by this Accident Expired, another, till then unheard of piece of Policy was invented, in order to oblige us to Make such Laws, Give what Money, and Concede to whatever else should be demanded of us; which was, to keep back the Country Bills in the Upper House until we should Pass those for Money, and agree to every other thing required from us; and because we, to prevent the Inconveniencies before mentioned, had resolved to give the future Money Bills their Determination with a Day certain, it was concluded by this new Scheme that all other Bills whatsoever should have the same Duration, that by all Expiring at once, there might be the like Opportunity of Acting the same Part again, and of Compelling the Delegates to Comply with whatsoever a Proprietor, Governor or Upper House should think fit to propose; altho' it is well known that the Country Laws before mentioned never yet had any other kind of Duration than for a Time certain and to the End of the next Session of Assembly; and notwithstanding this Resolution, unprecedented in our Mother Country or any other of his Majesty's Dominions that we know of, has not been formally communicated to us from your Excellency or the Upper House by Message; yet it is Clear beyond Contradiction, nor has it ever yet been denied, neither can we see what other Reason can possibly be given for not sending down our Bills, which have now lain so long before that House, contrary to the constant usage of Assemblies.

If the above be the true state of the Case, as it most certainly is, who can blame the Representatives of a Free People for Guarding against a Practice which in it's Consequences must affect their Rights in their tenderest parts? Which must render their House of Delegates a Name only, or mere Shadow, by depriving them of that Freedom of Action, that Share in Legislation, which by their Charter and Birth Right the People are entitled to: Which must prostitute them to the sole Power of an Upper House and subject them at all Times to the absolute Will of their Governors.

We do not conceive it to be matter of Favour in any Branch of the Legislature to Consent to such Laws as have regard to the publick Welfare of the People, that being incident to the Office, and the indispensable Duty, of all concerned, and therefore think that Consent is not to be purchased at any rate, since it is not the value of the Price which makes the thing more or less Venal; and it seems to us impossible for a People to be Free where they have no Share in the Legislation, or which is in Effect