

“ you to the Necessity, by a *Personal Abuse*, of laying any Complaint before the House for a Breach of “ Privilege.” What Knowledge you have of your Rights with Regard to me, I shall not now determine; but only say: if you have an imperfect one at present, I shall be glad that you would better inform yourselves: However, I hope your Constituents will always know and support their Rights so far with Regard to you, as to question you for any Behaviour in the House, which they conceive to be contrary to the Trust reposed in you; this Truth is so grating to your Ears, that you could not be brought to declare, you had no Intention to preclude or intimidate your Electors from making any such Enquiry, but you did not care to deny in plain Words such Right to be in your Electors; yet you were resolved not to admit it expressly, and therefore you have delivered yourselves very equivocally on this Point, in these Words: “ They (*i. e.* your Electors) have too much good Sense and good Manners, to drive any of you to the Necessity, by a personal Abuse, of laying any Complaint before the House.” One might be led, at first Sight, to suppose you had condescended to give your Electors Leave to ask some Questions, provided it was done with good Sense and good Manners; but really the Force of the Words alone import no Allowance of such Liberty, but rather insinuate that your Constituents have too much good Sense and good Manners to offer such a personal Abuse to any of you, as to make an Enquiry; However, that I may do your Intentions as much Justice as possible, I will take for granted you meant, that an Elector may question you, provided he uses good Sense and good Manners in doing it.

I am, Gentlemen, swayed by Birth in my Inclinations, and obliged by my Station in Duty, to preserve the just Privileges of your House, as being inseparably connected with the Rights and Liberties of your Constituents; and therefore I hope you will not impute to me any Design (which is far from my Thoughts) of bringing your House into Contempt, when I am only endeavouring to prevent your Electors from being contemptible in the Eyes of all Mankind. And now, Gentlemen, since you do not think your Electors have any Right to question you, but with good Sense and good Manners, I think it would be but humane and generous for your House to resolve and determine, what Share of good Sense, and what Punctilio's in good Manners, are necessary to be observed in making their Addresses to you; for otherwise, a well meaning Planter may perhaps chance to displease his Representative, either as to the Question, or Manner of asking it; and upon Complaint, the House may possibly resolve, there was not the good Sense or good Manners shewed, as was necessary to free the Elector from the Accusation of a personal Abuse: And therefore, that People may not be guilty of a Breach of Privilege thro' Ignorance, it would certainly be agreeable to the Rules of Justice to point out, whether any, and what, Ceremony is to be observed? whether any, or what, Titles are to be used? whether it would be reckoned good Manners to trouble any of you at your own Houses, with any such Questions as relate to the Performance of your Duty? or whether it will be more proper to speak of these Matters in a public Place? I would not have you imagine, that these Expressions are used by me, for any other Purpose than to put this Matter in as clear a Light as I can; the Subject is too serious and important to be jested with, since it is of no less Concernment, than whether an Elector, by the Choice of a Representative, deprives himself of the Liberty of questioning his Behaviour in the House, unless he does it in a Manner that may be agreeable to the Representative? But should I suppose every one of you would be so considerate as to overlook such little Particularities of Behaviour, yet the Matter enquired into may be of such a Nature, as by asking Questions, the Elector may shew such Dissatisfaction, as the Representative may be ruffled, and construe and look on his Inquisitiveness and Disapprobation as a Distrust of his Loyalty to his Majesty, or Care for the Welfare of the Province, consequently not within the Rules of good Sense or good Manners, but a personal Abuse; and then perhaps on a Complaint made by such Representative (if he is a leading Man, or one of the Majority) the poor Elector may be severely censured, committed, and loaded with Fines, not only as a punishment to himself, but as a Terror to others: As for Instance, Suppose an Elector should happen to ask his Representative, whether the Act passed this Session for the *Canada Expedition* was endeavoured to be clogg'd or obstructed by any other Bill being tack'd to it? and the Representative should answer, There was such Attempt, and that he himself joined in it; if upon that the Elector should ask why he did so, and the other should reply, It was more necessary for the Honour and Good of the Country that the Government should be distressed, than that the provision should be made for his Majesty's Forces: If then the Planter, not being let into the Schemes of his Representative, but warmed with a Spirit of Loyalty for his King, should unwarily drop any smart Expression, disapproving of his Representative's Conduct, this, with a little Management, may be termed a personal Abuse. Again, Suppose an Elector who is either at Law, or fearful of being harassed by Attendance at *Annapolis* as a Juryman or Witness, should ask his Representative, Whether there was any Vote proposed to pass a Bill for Arms, &c. the Money to be lodged in the Treasurer's Hands as formerly, in case an Officers Fee Bill and Assize Law could be obtained; suppose the Representative should answer, There was such a Vote proposed, and he was against it; and thereupon the Elector, being sensible of the Charges of the Law or Attendance at *Annapolis*, should blame, and perhaps with some Asperity of Language reprove his Representative, and ask another Question; *viz.* Whether this Motion was entered on the Proceedings? and he should be told by the Representative, that it was determined by a Majority, that it should not be entered on the Journal: Suppose such an Answer should provoke the Elector to ask this Question, Were the Majority then ashamed that their Constituents should be acquainted with their proceedings? might not such a Question, which seems to be a very natural one, be determined inconsistent with good Manners (however agreeable to good Sense), and consequently a Breach of Privilege? And yet I am afraid, upon a Complaint, the next Session would endeavour to teach that Elector, how unbecoming he had behaved himself, and how little Sense and good Manners he was Maker of.

Thus, Gentlemen, I have represented, in a very natural and reasonable Light, the Consequences of the Doctrine and position you have thought fit to lay down, with Regard to the good Sense and good Manners in questioning your good Conduct; and from hence it must be owned, that had I not entered into any Observations from the Books on this Subject, yet your Declaration of Privileges must necessarily be attended with such destructive Effects to Liberty, that they ought never to be mentioned amongst a free People.

But, Gentlemen, as I have once hit upon the Right, with Regard to your Intentions in this Matter, I may venture to make another Guess; and, which is, that if it were possible you could be so fortunate as to succeed