

“ appear what Alterations and Concessions you have made, when contrary to your own just Rights. If your Intention herein, was, that those Alterations may appear to us, it was not necessary, unless you could imagine that we had not observed them. If it was to make them appear to others, we can't conceive how that could be fairly done, without giving them an Opportunity of comparing those Alterations with the Bills thereby altered, which remain in your own Hands. But, whatever might be your Intention in that Enumeration of your Amendments, we do not think it necessary, in a Message, to take any further Notice of them, or of the Embellishments bestowed on some of them, for Reasons that you have given us in a former Message this Session: Besides, we are still of Opinion, that whatever Alterations it may seem that you have agreed to, or whatever Concessions it may seem that you have made, yet our Objections in the most essential Points are not obviated, or sufficiently removed, especially that which relates to the Credit of, and sinking the new Emission of the Money in Five Years; and if you really, and indeed have, made any Concessions, contrary to your just Rights, we assure you we never desired any such, or expected such a Declaration from you. We only desire, that, consistent with your just Rights and our own, and for the general Good of the People, such a Law may be obtained as may be for the Safety and Defence of us all. For these Reasons we made our Objections to the Bill you sent us, in Hopes they might have been removed.

“ You are now pleased to say, *That you shall very cheerfully agree to a free Conference, not on the Subject-Matter of a Bill sent down with a Negative, but on the Subject-Matter of our Objections to several Bills, in order to bring about the Passage of the Bill last sent up:* This seems to us to be an extraordinary Kind of Conference; for really, Gentlemen, we confess, that we do not clearly understand your Distinction: We apprehend that in order to bring about the Passage of the Bill last sent up, the Subject-Matter of that Bill ought to be considered, rather than any Objections, that we may have made to any former Bill or Bills; we are, nevertheless, willing to confer with you on the Subject-Matter of those Objections also. But you go farther, and add, *Excepting, however, the Tax on Liquors consumed by Persons not being Retailers, and the Appointment of the Sheriffs to be Collectors of the Excise, as provided by the last Bill, being Points that we are determined not to depart from, and therefore cannot agree to a Conference upon:* These preliminary Points, so positively insisted on to be excepted out of the Matters of the Conference, we readily allow to be the most irregular Expedient that could be proposed, to obtain any good Issue from it.

“ You are however careful, *That your present Concessions shall not be drawn into Precedent, or any Way construed as derogatory to your ancient and undoubted Rights, &c.* and we cannot but observe how willing you seem to be to make a Precedent against us, drawn from our Inspection Law, which, we think, is nothing at all to the present Case: We hope then, you will allow us to be cautious, at least for the future, of making Precedents derogatory to the ancient and undoubted Rights of the Government.

“ We would willingly avoid giving you any just Occasion of Offence, especially at this Time; but, here we must take the Liberty of asking you a Question or Two; Will you be contented with your undoubted Rights, and that Share in the Legislature, which, by the Constitution of this Government, you are entitled to? Or would you assume to yourselves the sole Power, not only of making Laws, but the Execution of them too? If nothing less than this last will satisfy you, we must tell you, that it is a Point, which we are determined not to agree to give up to you; and you could not reasonably expect, that, to obtain only a free Conference on the Subject in Question between the two Houses, that we should agree to your previously excepting from the Conference any Points of that Subject, in which the undoubted Rights of the Government, or Liberties of a free People, may be involved, and which ought to be carefully discussed, before any Determination concerning them can properly be made: Therefore we earnestly recommend these Matters to your further Consideration, in order, if possible, to bring about that desirable End, which, if obtained, can only make your Constituents any Amends for the tedious Length of this Session, and the heavy Charge and Burthen it must bring upon them. However, upon the whole Matter, and notwithstanding all your Precautions, we having considered the dangerous Situation of Affairs at this Time, and to demonstrate our Readiness to use every Endeavour in our Power, to obtain a good End of our Deliberation, do agree to a free Conference with you, and have accordingly named Philip Thomas, Esq; and Col. Benjamin Tasker, to confer with such Members of your House as you shall appoint; but at the same Time we will be so free as to tell you, that whether you will Confer with us on those Points excepted by you, or not, we will determine thereon, as we shall think proper, according to our undoubted Right.

Signed per Order, J. Rejs, Cl. Up. Ho.”

*The House adjourns till the Morrow Morning at VIII of the Clock.*