

*Post-Meridiem.* The House met according to Adjournment, &c.

His Excellency the Governor communicated to Mr. Speaker, the following Message, *wiz.*

“ GENTLEMEN of the Lower House of ASSEMBLY,

“ THE Circumstances of the Times, and the Nature and Importance of the Matters I laid before you at the Opening of this Session, gave me Hopes, that a new Representative of the good People of this Province would have readily gone into a Consideration of such Points, as should most effectually conduce both to the Security of that People against the Incurfions and Ravages of a foreign and cruel Enemy, and prevent the Inconveniencies which they must otherwise inevitably be subject to, during the Course of the approaching Season.

“ Of such Nature were the Two Particulars I recommended to you at the Opening of this Session, of continuing the Support for the Troops already raised for the Defence of this Province, and of making a Provision for the Reception of such of his Majesty's Regular Forces as should be ordered hither for Winter Quarters; and indeed I was much pleased to find in your Address, as well a Promise that those Matters should have the first Place in your Deliberations, as your Reliance on mine, that if you should think fit, after they were dispatched, to proceed to other Business, any Bills that you should offer, whereby the Province might be Benefited, or the Security and Welfare of the People Promoted, should meet my ready Assent; because from hence I could not but conclude, that where so much Harmony subsisted between the Government and the Representatives of the People, where the Chief Magistrate cannot, upon Recollection, charge himself with any one Attempt to oppress or injure any Individual amongst his Majesty's Subjects of this Province, much less at an Infringement of, or Violation to, any of the just Rights and Privileges of either of the other Branches of the Legislature, and where consequently he could have no just Reason to expect any such Attempt being made upon him; I say, I could not but conclude, that such Harmony and Union of Councils, must necessarily tend to promote the great End and Design of all Government, the Welfare, Safety, and Happiness, of the People Governed.

“ But from what Kind of Fatality it has happened, that these Objects, the Security and Quiet of the People, so full in View, and by your Promise so strictly and speedily to be pursued, should be so suddenly laid aside and disregarded, in order to make an Attempt upon the Rights and Privileges incident to the Station I have the Honour to hold amongst you, I know not; but the very Day after your Address was presented, your Serjeant came into my House to take my Secretary into Custody, as he said, by the Order of your House.

“ Upon this Step, so unprecedented in itself, and so dangerous in it's Nature and Consequences, I immediately sent you a Message, not so much by Way of Charge against your House, as by Way of Complaint of such Usage, and that purposely so worded, that had this Conduct proceeded either from Inadvertence in yourselves, or Inacquaintance of your Serjeant with the Duties of his Office, an Apology might easily have been made, a speedy End put to this Affair, and the whole Legislature left at Leisure to proceed on the important Business, for the Dispatch of which they were called together.

“ But you, notwithstanding your first Address, and the Pleasure which must have arisen in the Breast of every Man who wishes well to the Public, upon observing the Harmony which thence appeared to subsist between us, having taken a Step, in itself unwarrantable, are so far from apologizing for it, tho' a fair Opportunity is afforded, that you persist in, and endeavour to justify it, by your Address of the 3d Instant, in Answer to my Message informing you of this Matter.

“ For tho' you do, in that Address, take the Opportunity afforded you by my Message of apologizing for yourselves, so far as to say, that if the Serjeant behaved in a Manner inconsistent with the Decorum that ought to be observed in your Excellency's House while you are at Dinner, it was not by any Direction of this House; after which you proceed to hope, if he has been Guilty of the least Intrusion or Indecency, your Excellency will impute it to his being but just appointed to his Office; which, so far as it concerns him, to shew my Willingness to oblige you, I very readily do; yet in that Address, you not only confine the Indecency offered to me to the Time of my being at Dinner, by repeating that Circumstance casually thrown into my Message, as if you were disposed to have it believed, that your Serjeant may at any Time, except at that Season, enter my House, and take any Person thence you shall be pleased to order him, but you likewise in that Message say, that Mr. John Ridout having been Guilty of a Contempt of the Authority, and a Breach of the Rights and Privileges of this House, at the Bar thereof, we did issue a Warrant to our Serjeant to take him into Custody: Thus you state the Fact; and proceed to justify it, by saying, This we conceive to be a Right which we ought to exercise without any previous Application to your Excellency.