

“ I will not suppose you intended to draw any Inference or Argument from your describing the Person, against whom your Serjeant was sent, by the Name of Mr. *John Ridout*, in your Address, when I had in my Message called him my Secretary, as if your Serjeant might have taken Mr. *Ridout* into Custody without depriving me of the Service of my Secretary; because, tho’ you had not at the Time you issued your Warrant, known that Mr. *Ridout* was my Secretary, yet, when I had by my Message informing you of this Matter, called him by that Title, you could no longer remain ignorant that I was speaking of the same Person against whom you had sent your Serjeant; tho’ at this Time, that no Interruption might be given to the Public Business, ever carried on, even in the most quiet Times, at a very great Expence to the People. I might readily have admitted such Doubt as an Excuse.

“ But altho’ it must be understood that you did know Mr. *Ridout* was my Secretary, you nevertheless insist that you have a Right to send your Serjeant to take him into Custody, whenever you shall be pleased to think him *Guilty of a Contempt of the Authority, or a Breach of the Rights and Privileges of your House, without any previous Application to me.*

“ I do not propose to enter into any Debate with you upon this Point, because, as I have hitherto avoided making any Incroachments on the just and constitutional Rights and Privileges of your House, as one of the Branches of the Legislature, so am I determined not to suffer mine, while I consider myself as the Chief Branch of that Body, to be brought into Dispute, lest you should construe such a Condescension in me into a vesting you with a Right to dispute them whenever you shall think fit.

“ However, I would just observe to you, by Way of Information, with Regard to your Rights, that as you are one of the Branches of the Legislature, you, as well as the other Branches, have certain Rights and Privileges constitutionally annexed to you while together, which the other Branches may not interfere with, and you, as well as they, have likewise certain Servants to attend you in the Discharge of your Duty, tho’ if the Matter was to be disputed, your Right to cloath that Servant, which you are pleased to call a Serjeant, with such great Authority, would not, I am apt to think, be easily made appear.

“ The Gentlemen of the Upper House have likewise their Rights and Privileges; and I hope you’ll be pleased to remember, that I, as the Head and Chief Branch, have also mine, and particularly some, which neither of the other, singly nor both together, have any Power to exercise.

“ As these several Branches are constitutionally independent of each other, except in certain Cases, where I, as the Chief, have a Right to give the Law to the Rest, so likewise are the Servants of each free from the Authority of either of the others; and therefore, wherever, in any Case, Offence shall be given by the Servant of one to any other Branch of the Legislature, the Parties offended must be content either to overlook such Offence, or to apply to that Branch whose Servant such Offender is, to obtain Satisfaction; and this is the Method I pursued with Regard to your Serjeant; for, instead of sending the Sheriff, or any other Officer, to take him into Custody for the Insult offered me, I made my Application to you: And why I am not to be treated with the same Decency that you are, and have not as good a Right to protect my Servants, and prevent their suffering by the Authority of others, cannot easily be conceived.

“ Upon these Principles, then, give me Leave to proceed a little further. You tell me that Mr. *John Ridout*, whom I call, and who you know is, my Secretary, *was Guilty of a Contempt of the Authority, and of a Breach of the Rights and Privileges of this House, at the Bar thereof*; you say the Contempt he committed was at the Bar of your House, but you do not say how he came there; I am sure he came not there by my Consent, pursuant to any Application from you to me for his Attendance: And if you have called him, whom, at that Time, you knew to be my Secretary, and subject only to my Authority, before you, without pursuing the regular and parliamentary Method for that Purpose, as in this Instance, you have committed the first Irregularity, both with Regard to him and me: So you had not only no Authority over him when present, let him have behaved as he would; (and yet, from what I can learn of this Affair, I cannot disapprove of his Behaviour) but this is giving me a new, and the first Cause of Complaint of an Attempt by you to exercise an unconstitutional Authority, in sending for a Person to appear at your Bar, with whom you have nothing to do, and who is constitutionally under my Protection, and consequently of a Contempt of my Power, and of a Breach of the Rights and Privileges incident to my Station. And I must here take the Liberty to tell you, *Gentlemen*, that these Powers, Rights, and Privileges, I am determined, whenever I shall leave this Government, to deliver up to my Successor, as full and entire, in all their several Branches, as they came to my Hands.

“ I would not, from what has passed, be understood as if I were endeavouring to conceal any Thing from your Knowledge, which it may be proper you should know; and as the Lower House of Assembly

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