

come to him if he (the Serjeant) had any Business with him. The Serjeant said, he would not interrupt him at Dinner, but would wait on him again: The Servant replied, he (Mr. Ridout) would come to him, and desired the Serjeant to walk in; which he did, and stood at the Top of the Steps; and the Servant went in immediately. Mr. Ridout very soon came, and stood near him, and asked the Serjeant, if he had any Business with him; upon which the Serjeant told him, he had a Warrant to take him, and carry him before the House; and was going to read the Warrant to him; and he replied, it was very well, and turned about and went away, saying, he would come again immediately; very soon afterwards Mr. Ridout came to the Door of the Room which he had gone into, and said, he (the Serjeant) must excuse him, for that he could not attend; and then went in, and shut the Door. Shortly after, the Serjeant desired a Servant Lad, who was going into the Room, to tell Mr. Ridout he should be glad to see him; the Lad returned and said, his Master ordered him to tell the Serjeant he could not attend. Immediately after, the other Servant came and told the Serjeant, the Governor desired to speak with him; upon which the Serjeant followed the Servant into the Governor's Room; the Governor immediately asked the Serjeant, what he wanted with Mr. Ridout; the Serjeant acquainted the Governor with his having a Warrant to bring Mr. Ridout before the House; the Governor said, Sir, you cannot take Mr. Ridout; he shall not attend; the Matter concerns myself, and the House should first have made me acquainted with it; and you may go and carry that Message to the Speaker; upon which the Serjeant came away immediately.

The Affair being thus circumstanced, we could not avoid (in our Answer to your Excellency's Message of the 30th Day of September) insisting on the issuing a Warrant to our Serjeant, to take into Custody a Person (tho' one of your Excellency's Family) who had thus contemptuously misbehaved before this House, in refusing to give Evidence, and to attend according to Order, as a Right which we conceived we ought to exercise, without any previous Application to your Excellency; and our Address was purposely so worded, that had that Message been occasioned, either by the Misbehaviour of our Serjeant, thro' Inacquaintance with the Duties of his Office, or by Inadvertence in your Excellency, to the Rights and Privileges of this House, you might have put an End to the Affair, by suffering Mr. Ridout to give Evidence before this House, and so have left us to proceed without Interruption, on the important Business, which occasioned our being called together.

We are surprized to find your Excellency so much mistaken, as to mention our apologizing for ourselves; we assure you we shall not be easily brought to make an Apology for doing what is not only right, but absolutely necessary. Our Words, out of which the Apology is endeavoured to be extorted, are, "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; and we 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." This is an Apology for the Serjeant's Behaviour, as represented by your Excellency, but we do not think it is one for any Conduct of ours, nor do we think it needs any.

We are far from being disposed to have it believed, that our Serjeant may at any Time, except when you are at Dinner, enter your House, and take any Person from thence we may order him; and could we have thought any Circumstance had been thrown into your Message without Meaning or Design, we should have passed over that of your being at Dinner; but common Decency obliged us, when we were apologizing to your Excellency for our Serjeant, to make the Apology as circumstantial as you had made the Accusation.

We do not know of any such Officer as a Governor's Secretary, nor ever heard of such in this Government; and therefore (and not by Way of Excuse) we spoke of the Gentleman, against whom a Warrant was given to our Serjeant, by the Name of Mr. Ridout; and we hope a new Officer is not to be created within this Government by your Excellency's Messages informing us any Gentleman is such; and we cannot look upon Mr. Ridout as any Thing more than a Gentleman supported by your Excellency, or perhaps his Lordship, for your Convenience and Assistance in Writing.

Whether we have a Right to order our Serjeant to take a Governor's Secretary into Custody, or not, it is Time enough to dispute, when there is one legally commissioned (which we apprehend cannot be without the Consent of the Legislature) and duly qualified.

We do not desire to bring your Excellency's just and constitutional Rights, while you are the Chief Branch of our Legislature, into Dispute; nor will we tamely suffer ours to be violated or infringed.

What your Excellency is pleased to observe to us, by Way of Information, as to our Rights and Privileges as one Branch of the Legislature, may be New to you, but we assure you it is not so to us. What are the Rights and Privileges of those Gentlemen, that are said to constitute another Branch, we know nothing about; as it is a Branch undevise'd in our Charter, and unknown in it's Original. We with Pleasure acknowledge,