

held in *March* and *September 1756*, and in *April 1757*? But, not to enumerate all the Questions that such a Person might be naturally supposed to ask, upon Reading that Part of your Address where you assign a Reason for requiring Mr. *Ridout* to attend your House, at the Beginning of the present Session, I shall proceed to Mr. *Ridout's* Relation of what passed in your House, after he did attend, which I choose to give you in his own Words.

“ As I perceive that the Account, which the Honourable the Lower House of Assembly has been pleased to give your Excellency, of what is said to have Passed in that House, the 30th of *September* last, while I was present, differs in some Particulars from the Account I gave some Gentlemen the Instant I came out of the House, and from the Minutes which I took that Day, immediately on my Return Home, I take the Liberty to mention to your Excellency, some Circumstances that may perhaps have been thought too Trivial to be taken Notice of by the Gentlemen of the Lower House, in their Address to your Excellency of the 2d Instant; but which are, in my humble Opinion, at least as Material as several others that seem to be therein dwelt on. As soon then as I had entered the House, in Consequence of a Message sent me by the Speaker, for whom I had a particular Respect, *the Door was shut, and Care taken that no other Person might be admitted*: After I had been there a short Space of Time, the Speaker addressed himself to the House, and asked the Gentlemen, *Upon what Account he had been desired to send for me, and what Questions they would have me ask'd?* A Member thereupon standing up, and saying, *The House wanted to know what Papers those were that were mentioned by Mr. Ridout in a Letter which he had some Time since wrote to Col. Cresap, and how he came by them*, the Speaker addressed himself to me, and Questioned me agreeable to the Gentleman's Motion; Col. *Cresap* being seated on my Right Hand, I turned towards him, and desired he would let me see the Letter that the Speaker referred to; in Compliance with my Request, he immediately drew the Letter out of his Pocket and handed it to me: After I had perused it, I observed to the Speaker, that *the Letter appeared by it's Date to have been writ a great while ago, and said, I did not remember any Thing about the Papers therein mentioned, but that I would take the Letter Home with me, and if I should recollect what Papers they were, would give the Colonel an Answer*. Upon this, another said, that *indeed he had not Read the Letter, but as it seemed to be of some Consequence, he thought I ought not to be permitted to take it out of the House*: He moved however, that the Clerk might be Ordered to let me have a Copy of the Letter, or of that Part of it where the Papers were mentioned. When I perceived by the Beginning of the Gentleman's Speech, what he was going to say, I offered the Letter to One that was next me, to be returned to Col. *Cresap*, but another Member put out his Hand and took it, and then holding it to me, asked, *Whether the Name subscribed was my Hand-writing?* to which I answered, *Sir, I shall not think proper to Answer your Questions*. In Consequence of the abovementioned Proposal, the Speaker ordered the Clerk to let me have a Copy of that Part of the Letter which related to the Papers in Question, or of the Whole, if I desired it; whereupon I said, that *perhaps the other Part of the Letter might serve to refresh my Memory*, but added, that *I did not, or, should not, apply for a Copy of the Whole, or a Part; and that since the Governor's Name was mentioned in the Letter, I must desire to be excused from Answering any more Questions concerning it*. I was then desired to withdraw, which I accordingly did; but a short Time afterwards was sent for again, and on my Return to the Bar of the House, I was asked, *How the Papers, about which I had been before examined, came into my Possession?* I said, as before, that *it was a great while since the Papers had been in my Hands, that it was evident from the Letter that what I had done was by the Governor's Order, and that I must therefore desire to be excused from Answering any more Questions*. A Member then said, *Perhaps the Gentleman imagines there is much more Intended by this Enquiry, than there really is, and therefore it may be proper to explain to him what it is the House is desirous of Knowing*. I intimated to the Gentleman, that *he need not take that Trouble; for that I had already Answered as much as I should think fit*. After a short Pause, the Speaker said, *You see, Gentlemen, that Mr. Ridout declines Answering: I suppose he may withdraw*. It was then moved, that I might be Ordered however to attend in the Afternoon; whereupon the Speaker told me, that *I might withdraw, but that I must attend the Sitting of the House in the Afternoon*: I said, *I have received Orders from the Governor to go some Days of his, in the Afternoon, and I must attend that*. I was then, upon the Motion of some Gentlemen, Ordered to withdraw; which I did, and returned Home, it being then about One o'Clock. What happened after this, your Excellency is no Stranger to: Had I been to give a Detail of what Passed while the Serjeant was in your Excellency's House, I should have varied a little from the Account which he is said to have given; but that Transaction is not, I apprehend, of very great Consequence.

“ As there are several Expressions in the Address, which has given Occasion to this Narrative, that seem to imply that the Gentlemen of the Lower House would not have known that the Papers in Question went
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