

“ through my Hands, if they had not learn'd it from my Letter to Col. *Cresap* of the 28th of *May*, 1755,
 “ I cannot help observing to your Excellency, that a few Days after you sent Col. *Cresap*'s Bundle of Pa-
 “ pers, with a Message, to the late Lower House of Assembly, a Messenger came to me, as he said, from
 “ some Gentlemen of the Committee, who had been informed (as I understood) by the Clerk, of the Pa-
 “ pers having been returned to your Excellency, and told me, that they wanted those Accounts of Col.
 “ *Cresap*'s, which had been heretofore laid before the House; I told him, that I would wait on the Gentle-
 “ men in the Afternoon, and give them an Answer. It happened that just as I came upon the Parade the
 “ House was adjourned, but I address'd myself to one of the Committee, as I understood, and acquainted
 “ him with my Design in coming thither. I told him what I knew about the Papers, and said, I presumed
 “ Col. *Cresap* would readily lay them before the Committee, in case they should think proper to call on
 “ him for them. Since the Beginning of this Session, Mr. *Casson*, who was a Member of that Committee,
 “ as well as One of that which was appointed in *February* 1755, has told me, he remembers well, that
 “ when some of the Committee asked after the Papers, in *March* 1756, Col. *Cresap* told them that he had
 “ left them at Home: And if any Gentleman of the present House, has a Desire to see those Papers, I
 “ have Reason to believe that Col. *Cresap*, who is now a Member, will be able to produce them. I think
 “ it incumbent on me to observe farther to your Excellency, that if the Gentlemen had only wanted a
 “ Witness against their Clerk, they need not have sent for one out of the House, for I have been well in-
 “ formed, one of the Members has said, since I was before the House, that if the Gentlemen had Question-
 “ ed him concerning the Papers, instead of sending for me, he could have told them how they went out of
 “ the House, and that he was not the only One among them that could have given them such Information.
 “ But whatever the Gentleman's Design was, in desiring that I might be sent for, I find, that from my de-
 “ clining to answer about a Matter which I could not instantly recollect, an Occasion has been taken to
 “ calumniate and asperse my Character. False Stories have been artfully and most industriously propagated
 “ through the Province. Many People have been made to believe, that the Sum of 40,000*l.* which was
 “ Granted some Time since for his Majesty's Service, had passed through my Hands, and that I absolutely
 “ Refused to Account for it: This I have been advised of by Mr. *Waggaman*, a Member of the House,
 “ who did me the Justice to undeceive the People whom he heard mention it. In some Counties it has
 “ been alledged, that I denied my Hand-Writing; and in Others, that I had Stole an Account which had
 “ been passed by the Assembly, and secretly put another in it's Room, by your Excellency's Order, with a
 “ View of Defrauding the Public of several Hundred Pounds. To whose Generosity I am indebted for
 “ these secret Services, I have not been yet able to learn; but I must rely principally on the Justice and
 “ Candour of the Gentlemen of the Lower House, who are sensible there was not the least Foundation for
 “ such villainous Reports, to vindicate my Character, and to represent the Affair in it's true Light, to such
 “ of their Constituents as may ask them Questions concerning it.”

I forbear making any more Remarks upon this unlucky Affair of Mr. *Ridout*'s, as you call it; but shall proceed to take some Notice of that Part of your Address, where you are pleased to Declare, “ That you know nothing about the Rights and Privileges of those Gentlemen, that are said to constitute another Branch of the Legislature, as it is a Branch undevise'd in our Charter, and unknown in it's Original;” a Declaration that differs very little, I think, from one that was once made here in the Days of Governor *Fendall*. That Gentleman, having been oppos'd in some of his Measures by the Council, agreed, as it should seem, with some of the great Speakers and Leading Men among the Burgeses, to Destroy the Upper House, and Subvert the Constitution: To bring this about, it was so ordered, that the Speaker and the Members of the Lower House, should go in a Body to the Upper, and tell the Governor and Council that they could not allow them to be an Upper House, or a distinct Branch of the Legislature; but that, if they pleased, they might take Place in, and become a Part of the Lower; the Governor readily accepted the Offer, and was received as their President. The Secretary, and other Gentlemen of the Council, Protested against such a Step, as a manifest Breach of his Lordship's Right, Royal Jurisdiction and Seigniority, and desired Leave to enter their Reasons; but they were not suffered. As soon as this Affair was known in *England*, proper Measures were taken to restore the Constitution and Government: Another Governor was appointed, the Upper House re-assumed their Authority, Rights and Privileges, and Mr. *Fendall*, and the Chiefs of the Faction, were apprehended, tried, and convicted of Rebellion; their Lives were with some Difficulty spared, but the Punishment inflict'd on them, by Loss of Goods and Imprisonment, was thought sufficiently Exemplary, to deter all future Governors, and Leading Men, from imitating their Conduct.

But you may still insist, that this does not at all shew, how the Upper House originally became a Branch of our Legislature, and a Part of our Constitution, I shall therefore endeavour to give you Satisfaction in