

“ Reflection of the general Situation of the Affairs of this Country, the Duty they owe to the King and the Community (whatever Representations may have led them into the present Bill) they will immediately set those Things on a true Constitutional Footing, and enter heartily into the Common Cause, for the Security of *Maryland*, and to give their utmost Assistance against the Common Enemy. I intended when I writ from *Albany* to have come directly to *Annapolis*, but some unexpected Business put it out of my Power at that Time, and now I cannot fix the Time I shall be with you.

“ Hoping from your wise Management, and the People coming to see their own true Interest, that I shall very soon have better Accounts from you: I am, with sincere Regard, Sir,

“ *Your most obedient humble Servant,*

“ LOUDOUN.”

Does it, *Gentlemen*, or does it not, appear from this Letter, that the Earl of *Loudoun* applauded the Conduct of the Upper House in rejecting the Bill, of which, at the Desire of the Lower House, I had sent him a Copy? If it does, I intimated no more nor less than the Truth, whatever Part of the Bill it was that induced his Lordship to commend them for returning it with a Negative. At the Time I sent him the Bill, I did not imagine he would Read any more of it than the military Part, as I told the Gentlemen of the Lower House in a Message dated the 6th of *December*, when they desired me to transmit the Bill to him; and from the Manner in which his Lordship expresses himself in the Beginning of his Letter, I am apt to believe he never thought of perusing more of it than that Part, nor do I see what good End it would have answered for him to have waded thro' that voluminous Composition; for tho' you are now pleased to signify to me, that the then Lower House expected his Lordship would peruse it, in order to see if there was any Thing impracticable in the Execution of the Plan for raising the Aids for the King, therein proposed, or unjust or unreasonable in the Means, or too sparing in the Sum offered, and that he would have signified his Opinion relative to such Matters, I am far from thinking *that House* would have thought his Lordship a competent Judge of the Propriety or Impropriety of all those Parts of the Bill, or if he had ventured to give his Opinion thereon, that they would have paid any Regard to it, when they afterwards disregarded that of his Majesty's Attorney General, who had seen what had been urged by the Two Houses both for and against it; and I cannot help thinking you are too hasty in drawing from his Lordship's *Silence*, this Conclusion, That he did not think the Bill in *any of these Respects* liable to the least Objection: Could he indeed have then seen all that afterwards passed between the Two Houses thereupon, or on a Bill very similar to it, his Lordship might perhaps have been able to form some Judgment of the Propriety or Impropriety of the general Plan, and particular Parts of it; but it would surely have been a little unreasonable for the Lower House to expect his Lordship, without hearing or seeing what could be offered on both Sides, would undertake to determine concerning any besides the military Part of it, of which his Lordship probably thought himself as capable of judging, as the Gentlemen who had framed it.

*That Opinion* of Mr. *Pratt's*, was, I apprehend, given on a Perusal of the Bill, and Messages that in 1758 passed between the Two Houses, which, as I conceived they contained a full and true State of the Dispute between them on the Bill, I therewith transmitted; and the Opinion I communicated to the Lower House undoubtedly shews that he was intimately acquainted with the several Points in Dispute between them; and being all that I received from *England* in Return, if I declined giving that House any Satisfaction they wanted, it was owing to my not having it in my Power to gratify their Wishes. I am indeed sensible, that the Opinions of Counsel are governed by the Manner in which the Facts they are founded on, are stated, and I perceive there is some Difference between those of the late Lord Chief Justice *Willes*, and his Majesty's late Attorney-General, with respect to the Nomination of Officers; but as the Lords of Trade, in their Report Two Years ago on some Laws passed in *Pennsylvania*, which Report met with the Concurrence of his Majesty's Council, have repeatedly declared their Sentiments concerning the Right of the Crown, and in that Government of the Proprietors to the Nomination of Officers, I am in Hopes that their Lordships Opinion will always have it's Weight with us, and *that Right* of the Proprietary be never again controverted in this Province.

As you were pleased, in Answer to my Speech at the Opening of the Session, wherein I avoided making any particular Application to the Lower House of the Reprehension contained in the Secretary of State's Letter, to suggest that for Want of an Agent appointed by that House alone to represent their Transactions in a true Light, our most gracious Sovereign and his Ministers, had not been fully and truly informed of the repeated generous Offers, which the People of this Province had heretofore made by their Representatives, to raise very large Supplies for his Majesty's Service, I could not help considering the Suggestion as a Reflection on myself, for had not the King's Ministers been informed of the several Votes of the Lower House for raising Supplies, and of their Proceedings in Consequence of such Votes, I should not have discharged my Duty: To vindicate myself therefore from the Blame which the latter Part of your Address seemed calculated to cast on me, I took the Liberty to reply to this Purport, That if the Journals of the House of Delegates, and the Bills offered by them to the Upper House, may be supposed to contain a true Representation of their Proceedings, I presumed there could not be any great Necessity for the Appointment of a Person at home, under the Denomination of an Agent, to acquaint his Majesty or his Ministers with the Transactions of the House of Delegates, or to inform them of the Offers that House had made to raise Supplies for his Service, since the Journals of that House had been transmitted for their Information, particularly the Journal containing the Messages that passed between the two Houses on the Subject of their new Supply Bill. But say you, in your last Address, “ the great End of employing an Agent, is to represent and bring to a final Determination any Matters in Dispute with the Proprietary, by which the People may apprehend themselves aggrieved.” Had you, *Gentlemen*, in your first Address, given such a Reason for the Lower House's desiring an Agent, I should not have considered it as any Reflection on me for having neglected my Duty, nor have taken Notice of it in the Manner I did, though I might not even then have seen the Expediency of such a Person's being appointed; for whatever some of you would insinuate, and endeavour to make other Persons believe, the Lord Proprietary is, in my Opinion, not much concerned in the Controversy which subsists between the House of Delegates (or rather a small Majority of that House) and the Gentlemen who constitute another Branch of this Legislature,