

there would not be a perfect Coincidence of our Opinions ; we can't help remarking, that your *Conclusion*, from *such* Premisses, against the *ridiculous* annual *Farthing-Tax*, to support the Salary of the Clerk of the Council, is rather too ludicrous. The Terms, "Struggles for Liberty," you have without Doubt, a Right to use ; but when applied to the very *little* Affair of the Clerk's Salary, Words expressive of a *less* important Dispute, would be more proper.

The Precedents, we cited, were the deliberate and voluntary Acts of sensible, honest, and free Men on a Subject they well understood ; and, if such ought to be of *no* Weight, we confess ourselves to be mistaken.

Why Mr. *Rofs* did not make his Claim, or whether the Practice hath, or hath not prevailed of making it, as you mention, we are not informed but by Mr. *Rofs's* Declaration that it never was the Practice ; but it is observable, that he did not put in his Claim for making out Journals as Clerk of the Upper House, which hath however been allowed, without Dispute ; and, as it can't be imagined he intended to give *that* up, there seemed to be very little Reason for your Inference from his Omission with respect to his Claim as Clerk of the Council.

What you have observed in Reference to our Proposition for appointing an Agent, or Agents for both Houses, doth not in this Place require a particular Answer ; because in our Message with your Agent-Bill, we have at large explained on what Principles we are, equally with yourselves, entitled to one ; and we refer to that Message for a clear Refutation of your Objection to our Proposal. The Case you have put to shew that our Proposal was unreasonable, may impose upon those who have not been accustomed to examine Matters of an extensive and complicated political Nature ; but they who can penetrate deeper into the Subject will perceive a Variety of Circumstances which ought to be maturely considered, and which your short familiar Case doth not include. We should think that the Case might more properly be stated in this Manner : Two Men are concerned in a joint Stock, and have a Difference of Opinion about their respective Rights : Is it not just that each should be heard in settling their respective Pretensions ; and equally just, that, if the one requires Part of the Common Property to support his Claims, the other should be allowed to apply an adequate Part of it in his Defence ? We do not say that our Case suggests a proper Idea of the Question, because there is a peculiar Complication of Circumstances arising from various political Rights which can't be comprehended in these short Illustrations. Our View, we most sincerely declare, in proposing the Expedient of an Agent was, to bring to a final Determination all our little Differences, that these Occasions of Jealousy, and of the Obstruction of the Public Business, might be extinguished ; and we conceive, that the Expence of maintaining Agents for this Purpose, Two or Three Years, would be amply compensated by the beneficial Consequence of having so many Bars to the Institution of useful Regulations removed ; and we are unfeignedly sorry, that the proposed Expedient hath been rejected upon such Pretences, as do not evince that *serious* Regard for the Welfare and Prosperity of the Province we expected you would, on so fair an Opportunity, have shewn, and which would have repressed all petulant Sallies of a ludicrous Humour, and an affectation of Wit which at best seems only to have consisted in some very feeble Effusions.

Consistently with your candid Design of giving a *full* and *impartial* Information to the Public, we presume the Bill you framed for the Appointment of an Agent will be Published in order to its being seen, that, conscious of the Purity of your own Intentions, you have not had the least Difficulty in Trusting yourselves with a large annual Sum of Public Money, for which you would be liable to no Account, and which you might apply to what Uses and Purposes you should think fit ; for, tho' in the Title and Preamble, you speak of the Appointment of an Agent, none of the enacting Clauses restrict you to that Application of the Money ; and if, in the Extent of your Enquiries, you can (we speak not of Times of Turbulence and Faction) find any Instance of a like Power being asked by, and vested in a *British* House of Commons on any Occasion, you will explain it, that none may suspect your having been actuated by any other than the most laudable Motives.

Your Claim to an Allowance is indubitably a just one ; and the Proposition we made, proceeded not from any Opinion that you are not entitled to the legal Satisfaction of it, but because, had the Journal passed without Mr. *Rofs's* Allowance, it would have been an effectual and irrevocable Rejection of it. The usual Manner of paying it, was in the Journal, with your Allowance ; and, as we apprehended, that his and yours ought to have been paid together, we proposed that they should still go together, and, tho' we did not think that other Claims were more just than his or yours, yet, out of Tenderness to the Distresses of many of the Public Creditors, who had done nothing to obstruct the Passage of the Journal, we signified our Consent that they should be paid immediately ; and you must, in general, approve of our Tenderness, tho' you may not so easily forgive an Expedient which did not regard *your* Convenience with so much Favour as it did *theirs*. Considering all the Claims to be just we objected to any Distinction between them, when it did *not* appear to be necessary for the Relief of the Distressed ; but, since we find, that the Passage of the Journal, this Session, hath become *desperate*, we are now willing to pass *your* Bill for the Payment of the Expences incurred on Account of the late War, and hope you will not *alter* your Opinion of the peculiar Hardships of the Claimants, and of the Compassion they are entitled to, because *we now are desirous* that they may be immediately satisfied.

If our Answer to your Message is rather desultory, the want of Method in yours, which may be justly imputed to the Straitness of the Time in which these Matters are composed, and the same