

of the Senate March 23 1774

Gentlemen,

The declining to answer our Message, is a Scandal so singular, and so unbecoming a Branch of Legislature, that we really should have been at a loss to conceive to what Principle it might be ascribed, had not your Message of this Day, accompanied with a Resolute reply to ours, calling for an Answer, discovered to us, that a warm and zealous Attachment to the Rights and Privileges of your own House, had excited some Fears and jealousies of a Design in ours to encroach on those Rights and Privileges; had we been left to guess at your Motives, we might have ascribed it to a different Cause: It is indeed remarkable, that those Fears and jealousies should immediately vanish, when two Days after we returned you the Resolves of your House, for increasing our own Allowances without Limitation of Time, with a Proviso, accompanied by a Message, proposing an Alteration to be inserted in another Resolve, to which you most readily agreed. The Consistency and Propriety of your Conduct in these two Instances we shall leave to yourselves to determine; suffer us only to remark, as something extraordinary, that your rational Sensibility and watchfulness for your Rights in the first Instance was so soon followed by great Calmness and ready Acquiescence in the second. The Objection, mentioned in our Message by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq. most clearly lying against the original Law, and as we then thought against the present Bill, which in respect of the Apportionment of an additional Pound Rate is consolidated with it, and being in our Opinion very material, we were constrained by our Love of Justice, which in all Acts of Legislation should at all Times be preserved, to point it out to you. We did it without the least Intention of infringing the Rights of your House, and in a Manner we judged most unexceptionable, that you might have an Opportunity, if you thought proper, of making the Alteration; and although upon Reconsideration of the Bill, it appears doubtful whether our Objection does so clearly apply against that, as against the Original, yet we still think it worthy your Notice, as all Laws ought to be couched in the most clear and unequivocal Terms. However, Gentlemen, as you have determined, perhaps wisely, to enter into no Argument on the Occasion, which in truth we had no Intention or Desire of leading you into, and as we have not in any Instance discovered a Disposition to make the least Attempt, either directly or indirectly, to violate the Rights and Privileges of your House, we shall at present content ourselves with sending you down the Bill with our Assent, which it was our Intention to have done, had you not agreed with us in Sentiment on the proposed Objection, and which, indeed, is plainly enough implied in the Message itself — By Order of the Senate

The Bill Ordered to be engrossed

On Motion, Ordered, That the Reverend Bartholomew Booth be included in the Bill to be brought in for the Relief of James Bartlett —

The Bill, entitled, An Act for the Relief of Henry Stevenson, Sheriff of Baltimore County, was read a second Time by special Order and passed —

Mr. Schnebely brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a Bill, entitled, An Act for the Relief of Thomas Lightfoot, a languishing Prisoner in Talbot County Gaol; which was read the first and second Time by special Order and passed —

The House adjourns till Tomorrow Morning at 10 o'clock