

us to give up our Existence while there are so many similar Bodies in *America* to countenance our Claim; and were we as much disposed to rail at former Times as you seem to be, we might, in your Taste, Censure the Proprietary, and that Body now called the Upper House, for admitting such a Branch as the Lower House into the Legislature, and charge it upon them as "an Evil! which the People of this Province most sensibly feel," (as indeed they do very much to their Cost) "and which we fear their latest Posterity will have Cause to Lament!" But, having no private Interests to serve, or public Disturbances to raise, we forbear.

Your Message being altogether in the Declamatory Strain, and adapted much rather to inflame an Assembly of your Constituents, than to correct Errors, by convincing the Understanding in a Legislative Course of Proceeding; and having, we think, sufficiently manifested your Pretensions to the two important Points you claim, to be entirely groundless, we shall totally disregard the various Phantoms you have been pleased to raise, in Hopes of our joining you in the endless Pursuit; and observe that after having in Appearance persuaded yourselves, you seem endeavouring to persuade your Constituents to believe, that you are the only Branch of this Legislature, either by Constitution or Inclination, concerned for the Preservation of the People's Happiness, and that you consequently have an exclusive Right of determining in a Legislative Way concerning their Rights and Benefits: But herein you happen to be no less unfortunately mistaken, than in those Points relative to your Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and to your Claims of the Rights and Privileges of the *British* House of Commons. We claim to be, and are, in equal Degree with yourselves, the Constitutional Guardians and Protectors of the People's Liberties; for as we have already intimated, this House was by your Ancestors erected with a View to Check and Restrain the boundless Powers their Representatives might otherwise be disposed to exercise over them, and consequently to judge, and pursuant thereto, to exert our Powers whenever we see Occasion, to prevent their Ruin or Oppression. And give us Leave, *Gentlemen*, to acquaint you, that we are by no Means inferior even to your Pretensions, in Point of Inclination to promote their true Interest and Happiness; that as we have frequently heretofore, so have we now upon the Occasion of this your favourite Assessment Bill, saved them from the Ruin resulting from the Plan and Manner of penning of that your favourite new System, had it been Enacted into a Law; so totally new, that tho' you are pleased to assert "that Plans of this Sort have not only been thought practicable, but found, by long Experience, eligible in our Mother Country, and most of the neighbouring Colonies," we must take the Liberty to deny that there is, to our Knowledge or Belief, any such Law subsisting in either one or the other, unless where the Constitution of Government may happen to be such as you would willingly reduce this to; and even in such a Constitution, if such can be found, no such Bill as yours has ever existed, and been "found, by long Experience, to be eligible." The Invention is entirely your own; and however desirous you may pretend to be, that "we would only give the People of this Province an Opportunity of making an Experiment of it," we must beg to be excused, because, besides that there are many who perhaps upon any other Occasion you would avoid counting amongst the Number of the People, and whose Liberties and Properties are unjustly to be affected by this Bill, as well as the Danger that a single Precedent may be appealed to as the Foundation of a future Claim to the Continuance of this new and intricate System, with all its Train of Mischiefs attending it, we cannot, for one Hour, trust you with the Powers you would by this Bill acquire over the People.

Signed *per Order*,

J. Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

