

Every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceable and orderly manner.

Your Petitioner doth not apprehend he hath offended against peace & good order by censuring a law as partial, oppressive, and unnecessary, which he is under the fullest conviction, he hath proved to be so, by arguments unanswerable at least hitherto unanswered.

Your Petitioner not being conscious that any thing contained in his petition, or speech, is either indecent or justly exceptionable, and the censure being general, not pointing out the parts, which the House censure, as highly indecent and exceptionable, he can only guess at them, and suppose the passages, or words, which were deemed offensive, either relate to his strictures on Debtors, the law itself, or to such observations on the law makers, or the Senate and present House of Delegates, as naturally & unavoidably arose of out of his subject.

As the Senate was so far from passing a censure on the petition, that they impliedly acknowledged the reasonableness & propriety thereof, by referring it to your Honorable House (notwithstanding the present Senate composed one branch of that very Legislature, which pass the law complained of by your petitioner) He presumes those gentlemen did not think his petition in any respect offensive, & therefore he does not at this time renew his application to them; and he now hopes to prove to your satisfaction also, that neither in his petition, or argument in support of it, did he say anything respecting debtors, the law in question, the makers of that law, or the present House of Delegates, which can be truly deemed highly indecent & justly exceptionable.

As to Debtors, who have discharged their old debts in the new bills of credit.

Your Petitioner lays it down as a certain & undeniable position, that a debtor, who having it in his power to pay a debt, or the value of it, and doth not pay it, or the value of it, acts fraudulently.