

verted but when they pressed him to answer to other Matters he desired to be excused for the Reasons mentioned in my last Message to the House on the occasion. You will observe that I declined entering into a Controversy with the House about their Right to send for other Persons to their Bar as much as I possibly could, but by insisting that my Family is not & cannot be subject to their Jurisdiction I have intimated to others that they may dispute their Authority likewise since the House have themselves thought proper to put my Family & all private Gentlemen's Families exactly on the same Footing. It is a Maxim with me that it is the Duty & Interest of the Supreme Magistrate in such a Gov^t as this especially to support the Dignity of the Inferiour Branches of the Legislature as well as of the Courts of Judicature because these in their Turn support the Dignity & Authority of his Office but if either of these should endeavour to overleap the others & to render them contemptible it behoves him to oppose such an Attempt; The Practice of calling the Magistrates & others before the Lower House for real or pretended Offences or Neglects is but of late Date & if not timely checked must destroy our Constitution. Whether what the Lower House took occasion at this time to say about the Upper ought to be attributed to Ignorance or a worse motive I leave you to judge but to whatever Cause their unaccountable Declaration was at this time owing I have I hope given them such an Answer as will prevent a Repetition of it. It will be more easy for You to conceive than for me to say what might have been the Consequence of such a Doctrine being generally believed here as "that the Upper House is no Part of our Constitution" a Doctrine that the People I mean the Lower Class of them which are a great Majority would readily swallow because they are taught by the Pensilvania Gazettes that there is no such Branch of the Legislature in that Gov^t It is from that Quarter that all our Fine Schemes are imported, to the Proceedings of the Assembly of that Province & a few evil disposed Persons among ourselves I am indebted for all the Trouble that I have at times met with. It is not enough for them to be a Democracy themselves but they would willingly have their neighbours in the same Situation; however I congratulate myself on being vested with a Power which M^r Denny wants, & I flatter myself that by my Steadiness & Integrity I shall convince every Man of common Understanding among us that the Peoples Liberty & Properties would become very precarious if the Lower House of Assembly was alone to possess all the Power that is now distributed among the several Branches of our Legislature.

Among the other Papers which you will herewith receive is