

provision for winter quarters for the King's regular troops, the house had at the beginning of the session made "an Attempt upon the Rights and Principles incident to the Station I have the Honour to hold among you", in entering his house and attempting to arrest his Secretary. He declared that the refusal of the house to recognize Ridout as his Secretary and "constitutionally under my Protection", and its attempt to treat him as a non-privileged individual for an alleged contempt was an attack upon the constitutional rights of a coordinate branch of the government, and that so far from apologizing for its unwarranted actions in encroaching upon these rights "You only confine the Indelicacy offered to me to the Time of my being at Dinner". The Governor declared that when the servant of one branch of the government offends the servant of another, redress must be sought from the branch of the government itself and not from the individual. Therefore instead of sending for the sheriff, as he might have done, to arrest the sergeant-at-arms he had made direct application to the house itself, and expected from it the "same Decency". He concluded by advising the house to turn its attention to matters which imperatively demanded its immediate attention (pp. 227-231).

But the dispute did not end here. The Lower House took another tack and ordered a special committee consisting of Philip Hammond, William Murdock, and Edward Dorsey, all leaders of the county or anti-Proprietary party, to report to it whether there was a record in the Provincial Office of any commission appointing Mr. John Ridout Secretary to the Governor, and whether he had taken the oaths required to qualify on such commission, and also to examine the records to see whether there could be found a commission by a previous governor appointing any person to be his secretary (p. 231). Some seven weeks elapsed before the Lower House on December 11 sent a lengthy message drawn up by these three members and addressed to the Governor, covering some eight printed pages of this volume (pp. 291-297), which was followed by an even more lengthy rejoinder to the house by the Governor (pp. 361-375).

As to the origin of "this unlucky affair of Mr. Ridout's", it need only be said that when Ridout was asked the first time to appear before the Lower House he did so informally and explained his part in the removal of the Cresap memoranda for correction, but when later he was further questioned upon matters of other import, he very properly declined to answer, and referred the members of the Lower House who had questioned him to the Governor for the information which they sought.

The last two exchanges of artillery between the Governor and the Lower House revealed the true animus of the house in making an issue of the "affair". The Lower House, always opposed to any expenditure of Provincial money on the distant outskirts of the frontier, and especially upon Fort Cumberland, which it felt should be defended by British forces and money, examined with overcritical eye every item of expense incurred in maintaining Provincial soldiers as a garrison there. When the original accounts were removed by Ridout, under orders from the Governor for correction by