

L. H. J.
Liber No. 52
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Right, not only of proposing, but also of preparing and sending down Money Bills, for the Concurrence of this House (tho' you are pleased to say, Bills of that Sort were commonly drawn by a Committee of both Houses) a Right, which the House of Lords in our Mother Country, independent as they are, have rarely, if ever, asserted to be in them, or attempted to exercise, or if they have, the Assertions have ever been positively denied, and the Attempt to exercise the Right, carefully frustrated by the House of Commons, being looked upon by them, as an Invasion of the Rights and Privileges inherent in them only: The like Rights and Privileges, we do insist, are constitutionally inherent in us, as the Representatives in Assembly of free British Subjects, and we hope we shall be allowed to exercise them without Controul, unless it can be shewn (which we cannot conceive) that our dependent State, upon our Mother Country (of which we are duly sensible, and in whose wise Determination we shall always cheerfully acquiesce) necessarily deprives us of any Part of them. As we have not at present Time to look fully into the Matter, we will for Argument's Sake, suppose some of the old Journals may shew, some few instances of what you assert in Relation to the Modes of Proceeding, for bringing about the Passage of Bills for raising Money for the Uses you mention; but we cannot by any Means allow, that a few Instances in the Times of the Infancy of the Province, should operate against a Right so essential to the Preservation of the Liberties and Properties of our Constituents. Those you mention, are not the only sad Instances of the Inattention of our Predecessors, in affording, and the Vigilance and Activity of the Government in laying hold of, Opportunities to encroach upon their Rights and Liberties. The Multiplicity of them afford a melancholy Retrospect, and call loudly upon us, to be as circumspect as possible, in order to guard against the like for the future. To an Inadvertency of the like Sort, little short of Infatuation, do your Honours owe your Existence as an Upper House; an Inadvertency which has brought upon us, all the Evils naturally flowing from the Introduction of a dependent Branch of Legislature into our Constitution; Evils, which the People of this Province most sensibly Feel, and which we fear their latest Posterity will have Cause to Lament.

It would seem, from the Terms of your Message, that your Honours represent the whole Sum of Money to be raised by our Bill, as applied to the Purpose only, of Levying, Paying, and Cloathing, Four Hundred Men, over and above the Eighty-four Recruits, required as our Quota, for compleating the regular Regiments on the Continent: How disingenuous is this Insinuation? Your Honours must have observed, that not much more than one Third of the Sum proposed to be raised by the Bill, is to be applied to those Purposes; and that the Rest is appropriated to the Discharge of