

necessary Powers and just Prerogatives of the Crown, and that it is in vain to negotiate away His Majesty's Prerogatives, yet as the Lower House have made no Attempt of this Kind, a Stanza from the Ballad of Chevy Chace would have served the Purpose of the Upper House just as well, if their View in inserting it had been fair and honest. Upon the most cursory View of the Constitution of this Province, any Man of the least Understanding must be convinced how ridiculous, how absurd, and how impolitic it is, to make such a violent Outcry as their Honours do about the Danger of Prerogative from the Invasions of the Peoples Representatives. The Delegates of the Freemen of the Province compose the Lower House; the Upper House (as has been proved beyond Doubt) are the Creatures of the Proprietor; the Governor is his Delegate, with a Commission during Pleasure; and the Proprietor claims, and actually exercises, the Power of dissenting to Bills, after they have passed the several Branches here; which fully justifies that Sarcasm of Doctor Douglass on our Constitution, that the Legislature of Maryland consists of four Negatives, and the Proprietor has three of them. To these Considerations permit me to add the Weight and Influence of our Proprietor, arising from the Appointments in his Gift, which amount at least to the annual Sum of Fifteen Thousand Pounds Sterling. If their Lordships of the Board of Trade were made acquainted with these Circumstances, I am apt to imagine, that they would not think themselves much obliged to the Upper House, to see a Passage in their Report prostituted to the low Purpose of serving the little abject Politics of those Gentlemen; nor would they esteem themselves much honoured by the burlesque Figure it makes, when applied to the public Proceedings of this Province. Had their Lordships been to report upon our Transactions, even as far as they are allowed to judge of them, I humbly conceive their Language would have been to this Effect; "We are satisfied that there is nothing so likely to preserve the Tranquility of the Province itself, or its Affection to, and Dependence upon, the Mother Country, as the maintaining, with a strict and steady Hand, the Rights and Privileges of the People against the dangerous Effects of Proprietary Influence. We cannot pretend to judge of the true Conduct of this Province, because their Bills, for the Support of an Agent to represent their public Conduct, have been always rejected by the Upper House; but are well assured, that the Peoples Privileges are much more in Danger than His Majesty's Prerogatives. In order to settle the Peace of this Colony by enabling us to judge of the Merits of their public Disputes, we recommend it as a most necessary and essential Measure, that they may have an Agent to lay their Transactions before us. The Alarm of His Majesty's Prerogatives is nothing but mere Amusement, it is therefore in vain to negotiate away the Peoples Privileges (the Security of which is the best Test of their Loyalty) every new Concession becoming the Foundation of

Contemporary Printed Pamphlet Md.Hist.Soc.

p. 54

p. 55