

Contempo-
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I will now proceed to shew that it cannot, by the Rules of fair Construction, be deduced from any Thing in the Message, that the Lower House arrogate to themselves the Rights and Privileges of a British House of Commons, in that general and unlimited Sense intended by the Upper House: The only Privilege at present in Contest, between the two Houses, being as to the Mode of proceeding on Money Bills, the Claim of the Lower House ought to be considered as relative to this Point alone; so that the Assertion is captious and uncandid. By recurring to the Messages between the

p. 9 two Houses, on this Occasion, it will clearly appear, not that the Lower House claim in general the Rights and Privileges of the British House of Commons, but that their Claim is either expressly or impliedly limited to those Rights and Privileges which regard the granting of Supplies. Their first Message runs thus—"As we are willing to depart from a strict Parliamentary Course, and for the present to wave our Rights, respecting the Mode of proceeding on Money Bills, we hope your Honours will overlook the Strictness of Parliamentary Forms, and point out your Objections," &c. Their Honours Answer shews that, at this time, they do not think any Thing more was insisted upon than the Rights exercised by the House of Commons in regard to Money Bills; for it runs thus—"It having, as the Journals shew, been usual for the Upper House not only to amend Supply Bills that had been framed in the Lower, but often to prepare such Bills themselves, and send them down for the Concurrence of the Lower House; we are confident it would not have been irregular for this House to have proposed Amendments to the Bill you were pleased to send us." The Reply of the Lower House is as follows—"We cannot but express our Sorrow, that an occasional Waver of our Rights, in respect to the Mode of proceeding on Money Bills, should serve only to put your Honours upon assuming a Right not only of proposing, but also of preparing and sending down Money Bills for the Concurrence of this House;—

p. 10 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 Determinations we shall always cheerfully acquiesce) necessarily deprives us of any Part of them." Now what can, by any rational Construction, be intended by these Rights and Privileges, but the several Rights and Privileges respecting the