

was glad to recover at any Rate; his Case being represented to me, I writ to Capt. Orme, one of the General's Aid-de-Camp's, in order to obtain their Release or Discharge, and at the same Time, ordered Mr. Ridout to write to Col. Cresap, who lived as it were on the Spot, to desire him to receive the Servants, and convey them back to their Master. Capt. Orme's Answer made it necessary for Mr. Ridout to write a second Letter to Col. Cresap, and as the Colonel had hitherto neglected to send me down such an Account as I had required, I thought it not amiss to remind him thereof, and desired Mr. Ridout to do so in the Letter that he was then writing, which was, I find, dated the 28th of May, 1755, and contained, among others on different Matters, the Paragraph that you have in your Address quoted.

The Colonel still neglected to comply with my Requisition, and tho' he was again called upon to do so when I went to Fort Cumberland in July 1755, and once or twice afterwards, yet he still declined rendering such an Account as I had for my own Satisfaction, as well as the Satisfaction of the Assembly, always insisted on. This being the Case, and the 6000 *l.* expended, I proceeded to close my Account thereof, in order that it might be ready to lay before the Assembly, at the then ensuing Session, which was begun the 23d of February 1756: In this Account I charged Col. Cresap with the 1750 *l.* which I had advanced to him, as you will see upon recurring to my said Account; and tho' I apprehended that there was a Ballance due to him, yet I thought he could have little Reason to complain of my referring him to the Assembly for Payment, since he had been so exceedingly dilatory in settling his Account, and making his Demand.

After the Assembly was met, the Colonel came to me with a large Bundle of Papers, which he said was his Account, and the Vouchers that I had required of him; I told him that I was Busy and had not Leisure at that Time to examine them, nor Money in my Hands to pay any Ballance that might, on Examination, appear due to him, but that I would immediately send his Account and Vouchers to the Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly, who would appoint a Committee to examine them, and if his Account was found unexceptionable, would make some Provision for his being paid what he should have a Right to demand, and in all Probability allow him a good Commission, or handsome Reward, for his Trouble.

Accordingly on the 6th of March, 1756, I sent his Bundle, together with my Account, to the then Lower House, with a Message, from which the following is an Extract:

"Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

"Inclosed you have an Account how the 6000 *l.* that was Granted by the last Assembly for his Majesty's Service, has been expended: As I have not Time to examine Col. Cresap's Accounts, I must desire your Committee to do it; and have ordered him to attend for that Purpose."

By the Journal of the Proceedings of the House, it appears that this Message of mine was taken into Consideration the 9th Day of that Instant March, and a Committee appointed to enquire into the Accounts and Papers therein mentioned.

How far this Committee proceeded in the Examination of the Papers, and to what it was owing that the Gentlemen made no Report on them, they best know; the Session continued more than Ten Weeks after these Accounts were laid before the House, and Col. Cresap attended the Committee, as I have been told, agreeable to my Order. If the Gentlemen did not proceed for want of any Information that they imagined I could give them, or of any Papers which I could have procured for them, they were much to Blame in not moving the House to Address me on the Occasion, as they had, till that Time at least, by your own Account, all the Reason in the World to believe, that I should have most readily given them all the Information, and have afforded them all the Assistance, in my Power.

Had the Gentlemen of the Committee thought it necessary to have taken that Step, I will venture to say, neither I, nor my Secretary, should have been Charged with having exchanged any Papers, or having taken away one Account privately and put another in it's Place; or of having done any Thing whatever, which it could be the Interest or Wish of either of Us, or of your Clerk, to conceal.

Having now told you what I know about the Papers, which you say were missing out of your House, and shewn the disinterested Reader, from your own Journal, how others came before you, or in their Place, as you are pleased to phrase it; I shall leave it to those that may read your Address, and my Answer, to judge of your Candour, and my Guilt.

If the disinterested Reader could conceive that you, I mean such of you as were Members of the late Assembly, knew almost Three Years ago, as much as he will when he has read thus far, he would, I doubt not, be surprized at your desiring any Body to attend, at this Time, in order to give Evidence against your Clerk; and he might perhaps ask, Whether it would not have been as proper to Reprimand your Clerk, when his Offence was first discovered (supposing he had Offended); as at the Beginning of the present Session; and, how it happened, that his Misconduct was not Censured during either of the Sessions that were held