

“ Lordship to appoint such a Person to attend them during that Session ;” but his Lordship, for what Reason does not appear, did not think proper to comply with their Request.

Before this Time then it could not have been a Question (however Ancient and Undoubted their Right) Whether the Lower House might Order their Serjeant to take a Governor's Secretary, or any of his Family, into Custody ? and I believe it is a Question that was never started in any Lower House of Assembly, before the present Session. A Governor has been heretofore desired to permit a Gentleman that did Business for him to attend the Lower House on a particular Occasion ; but it is very clear that they did not pretend to the least Authority over him : The Case happened when the Government of this Province was immediately in the Crown, and when the Assembly were disposed to give the Governor an additional Duty of Three Pence *per* Hoghead on all Tobacco exported : In order to settle the *Quantum* of the additional Duty, they wanted to know what the Impost of One Shilling *per* Hoghead amounted to, and therefore “ humbly desired his Excellency would be pleased to permit Mr. *Llewellyn* to go down to the House for some small Time, and that he might bring along with him the several Accounts by him taken from the Naval Officers.”

I do not pretend to say, that Mr. *Llewellyn* was ever known by the Title of *The Governor's Secretary*, nor would it perhaps have been known a Hundred Years hence, that Mr. *Ridout* went at this Time by that Appellation, if you had not thought proper to issue a Warrant for him, and, without making any previous Application to me, given Orders for his being brought to Answer, at the Bar of your House, to any Questions that you should think fit to ask him.

Whether it is necessary that I should have a Secretary or not, I may I think be supposed the best Judge ; and the impartial World will perhaps be surprized at Your making that a Question, since I did not ask any Thing of You for his Support. There are, I am satisfied, many Persons in this Province that have received great Benefit from my having One, and that will acknowledge he has served them without the least View of Advantage to himself ; but if he should, on similar Occasions hereafter, choose to take a *Quantum Meruit* for his Trouble, you will not, I suppose, concern Yourselves about it, since he is not an Officer of the Government. If you had asked me, whether he had a Commission or not, instead of spending Time to examine the Provincial Records, I should, without Hesitation, have satisfied your Curiosity ; and tho' you do not ask me, whether he has underwent the Qualification necessary to distinguish him to be a Loyal Subject, or not, I think proper to inform you, that he underwent such a Qualification as the Laws direct, before he accompanied me to this Province ; and, I persuade myself, you will not imagine that his Principles have been since Debauched, by living in my Family.

As I would willingly avoid all Enquiries into your Rights and Privileges, I have not taken any Notice of your Claim of an unlimited Power, to call one of any other Gentleman's Family before you, but have only denied your Right, to call before you any of mine. The Power of Protecting those that reside in my House, while they offend not the Laws, is a Right that I can neither part with, nor suffer to be disputed ; and I will venture to pronounce, that none of my Predecessors, when they granted the Prayer of a new Speaker, by assuring him “ that the Members of the Lower House of Assembly should be free from Restraint, in their own Persons, and in their Attendants, during the Session,” designed thereby to invest him with a Power of stripping them of *their Attendants*, whenever he should think proper.

But to have done with this Controversy, which I am sure I have been obliged to engage in much against my Inclination, I shall conclude with declaring, that although I should look upon myself as Guilty of a Breach of Trust, were I to suffer the Rights and Privileges that are incident to my Station as Supreme Magistrate, to be trampled on ; yet, I shall ever think myself bound to support the Dignity of your House, as the Third Branch of our Legislature, and shall be always ready to concur with you, in taking every Measure that might tend to promote the Public Good.

December 15th, 1757.

HOR<sup>o</sup>. SHARPE.

Which said Message was Read, and Referred for Consideration of the next Assembly.

*The House adjourns until II of the Clock Afternoon.*

*Post-Meridie.* The House met according to Adjournment, &c.

*Benedict Calvert*, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker, the Bill, entituled, *An Act for Reducing the Allowances of the Members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly*: And,  
The following Message, *viz.*

By