

L. H. J.
Liber No. 46

Post Meridiem

The House met according to Adjournment.

On motion of a Member, Leave is given to bring in a Bill to empower the Iustices of Talbot and St. Mary's County Courts to allow, at the laying of their next County levy, unto Jonas Green of the City of Annapolis, Printer, the sum therein mentioned

The House adjourns til To-morrow Morning 9 of the Clock

July 3

Thursday morning July 3, 1746

The House met according to Adjournment, and the Proceedings of Yesterday were read, M^r Worthington from the Committee of Accounts delivers M^r Speaker the Iournal of Accounts, which was read and Assented to and sent to the Upper House by M^r Worthington and five others. M^r Speaker communicates to the House the following Message from the Governor; Viz. Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

In Answer to y^r Remonstrance I think proper to Acquaint you, that the Information you have received of my having called M^r Smith a sorry Fellow, is absolutely false and an Imposition on your House: Perhaps it is true that I might say, he was an ungrateful Fellow, for that He, or his family having had Obligations to the Proprietor, nevertheless he made it his Business to spread false Reports about the Country to the Dishonour of the Government, But pray Gentlemen, what is this, or any Thing else that is said in Conversation with any man, to the Privilege of your House? Assert your Rights in God's name; I never shall Attempt or desire to infringe them, but do not imagine, I am to take every Thing to be Privilege that you are pleased to call so. I think I Know, as well as you do, what Privilege is; and let me tell you, you are now carrying yours further in Your Remonstrance, than ever was attempted by A British Parliament, and much beyond, I dare say, what your Constituents would wish to put this point in as clear a Light as I can, not only to y^r own understandings, but also to that of your Constituents, I shall first take notice of the Clause in the Statute of 1st of William and Mary, declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and which, I suppose, you have taken as a Foundation for y^r extraordinary Declaration. That Clause is thus expressed, "That the Freedom of Speech and Debates of Proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in Any Court or Place out of Parliament."

The meaning of this is very obvious, not only from the legal Construction of the words, Questioned and Impeached, but from the occasion or Necessity of Declaring and Asserting the Freedom of Speech by that Statute, as to the legal Construction, which is the only proper Rule for the Exposition of an Act of Parliament, the word Questioning in that Sense is, the Calling upon any man either