

Contempo-
rary Printed
Pamphlet
Md.Hist.Soc.

The whole of this Charge amounts to this, that the Lower House did not implicitly acquiesce in the Objections of the Upper House, but presumed to enter into a Dispute on the Weight and Pertinency of them; whence it is inferred, that they had not that Regard for His Majesty's Service which they pretended; but this is a mere gratis dictum, for if the Lower House were not satisfied that the Objections offered by the Upper House were well grounded, an Acquiescence in such Objections, and a Departure from a Plan which they thought right, would have been a slavish Submission, unbecoming the Representatives of a free People, and a base Prostitution of the Rights incident to their Station. The Upper House have, in this Message, gone a Step higher in their Pretensions that they ever did before, for they not only claim a Right of objecting to Money Bills, but that their Amendments shall be implicitly adopted; and that, as they are the Standards of Loyalty, and the constitutional Guardians of the Peoples Liberties, every Deviation from their good Will and Pleasure, is to be branded with Disaffection to the King, and an Attempt to subvert the Liberties of the Subject; for they go on and say, "would not they (the Lower House) had they been really desirous of granting his Majesty the demanded Supplies, have given some Indications of that Desire, by their Conduct?" How? In taking proper Measures to adapt a Bill for that Purpose, to the Approbation of the Upper House." This indeed is talking in an unusual Strain of dictatorial Insolence. The Lower House, it seems, are not to consider the Equity of the Mode, they are not to exercise their own Judgments in framing of Money Bills, but they are to take proper Measures to know the Sense of their Masters, and to be the servile Instruments of carrying their arbitrary Dictates into Execution; so that they would be just in the same Situation with the Parliament of Paris, who have nothing to do but to know their Master's Will, and to publish their Arrets accordingly.

But the Reason they give, why the Lower House should not have persisted in what they thought right, is very curious, and furnishes a further Illustration of the arbitrary Schemes of those Gentlemen, in subjecting the Lower House to their Controul; and that is, that the Lower House could not be so ignorant, as to imagine it could pass into a Law without their Consent; the plain Import of which is, that the Lower House ought therefore to send up a Bill which they knew would be agreeable to the Upper House. This is in one Word to exclude the Lower House from being a Branch of the Legislature, for if it is the Duty of the Lower House to frame Bills agreeable to the Sense of the Upper House, because without their Concurrence there can be no Law, the Lower House is a mere Cypher in the Constitution, and may as well send up a Charte Blanche to the Upper House, and receive any Bill they shall think fit to frame, as to send up a Bill, and then submit to any Alterations they shall propose,