

Title of the Guardians and Protectors of the Peoples Rights. But far different is our present Case, and therefore I must conclude in their Honours Words, "That an Upper House is a Misfortune peculiar to this Province." Their Honours are pleased to intimate, that they will not be persuaded to give up their Existence, as long as there are so many similar Bodies in America to countenance their Claim. As I hope, upon a little Recollection, they must be satisfied that there is not another Instance of any such Body in America, I presume the Difficulty is removed, and that their Honours will be persuaded to give up their Existence, and more especially, when I further assure them, that there is nothing like it either in Europe, Asia or Africa.

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Their Honours have hardened me against admiring at any Thing they can advance, or I should be surprized at the following Passage in their Message:—

"Were we as much disposed to rail at former Times as you seem to be, we might, in your Taste, censure the Proprietor, and that Body now called the Upper House, for admitting such a Branch as the Lower House into the Legislature, and charge it upon them as an Evil which the People of this Province most sensibly feel (as indeed they do very much to their Cost) and which we fear their latest Posterity will have Cause to lament." The Representatives of the Freemen of the Province are constituted, by the Royal Charter, one of the Branches of the Legislature, and there it is alledged that the Proprietor, in Conjunction with a Body of Men entirely his Creatures, is liable to Censure for admitting this Part of the Charter to be enforced. This is setting up a Power, in the Proprietor and his Council, to contravene His Majesty's Prerogatives, and to destroy the Rights of British Subjects, and yet these Men have the Modesty to assume the Title of the Guardians of the King's Powers and Prerogatives, and of the Rights and Liberties of the People, both which they most indecently insult in one Breath. It has always been esteemed a Blessing peculiar to an English Constitution, that the People are governed by Laws of their own making; but these State Worthies have found out, that it is a Curse that the People of this Province do indeed feel most sensibly to their Cost, and which they fear their latest Posterity will have Cause to lament. The great Flaw then in our Constitution, according to the Doctrine of those political Sages, is, that the People have any Share in the Legislature at all. Three Voices out of four will not satisfy those Gentlemen, nothing less, it seems, than both the legislative and executive Powers, or, in other Words, nothing less than absolute Power will do for this absolute Lord and Proprietor of ours, or redeem the unhappy People of Maryland from the Curse they labour under of not being entirely his Vassals.—But let us suppose our Constitution was reduced to the System these Gentlemen seem so fond of, by confining the Power of Legislature to the Proprietor and that Body now called the Upper

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