

ings of both Houses do Sufficiently Justifie us in, and prove, evidently; that the unworthy Acts of this Session ought not to be laid at our Door.

Gentlemen, We are still of Opinion that our Claims, as a Council of State, are founded on Law and good Conscience, without the necessity of coming up to those better Conclusions, which you expect from Us. For it seems by your Message of the 15th Instant, that the Proceedings of your own House are grounded on mistakes, which insensibly wound our happy Constitution; that hath made a Provision of Councillors for the Aid and greater Security of Princes and Governours, upon all emergent Occasions, wherein, nevertheless, the Common Weal of the People, is necessarily involv'd. And we readily agree with you that so long as you look upon the Office and Business of Councillors of State to be for the Support of the Prerogative only, It is no wonder that you are so unwilling to burthen your Country with the Charge of our Services. But give us leave, Gentlemen, to tell you that the Duty of our Office as well as our Oath, which we have taken for the just Discharge of the Trust reposed in us entitle us to much more useful Services, which it seems upon some Occasions your House it self was not Insensible of, seeing it is very justly Affirm'd in the same Message that you do not in the least doubt of our having the Common Weal of this Province as much at Heart when we Act as a Privy Council (or Council of State) as when we Act in Conjunction with your House, and therefore, seeing that our Office is of such Importance to the publick Good of this Province, we may very reasonably expect a Reward for our Services upon all such important Occasions.

We must further observe to you, that whatever Esteem or Value his Lordship shall please to put upon our Services, in relation to our Continuance in the Office of Councillors we must entirely Submit that to his Lordship's good Will and Pleasure: However we are not willing to give up the Reward of our Attendance so long as we have already acted in that Station; being very well assured, that if the value of the Reward were always to be Measured by the worth of the Service, the Members of our House would have as good a plea for themselves as many other People in the World, that are paid for their Services to the Country.

For if the Labourer according to the Divine Prædication, be worthy of his Hire; we think our selves justly Entitled to the Allowance we Claim. Nor is it any way Satisfactory to us, that your House at this Time hath made it a Question, whether any thing be due to us or no? And that if there be, you very generously thrust us upon his Lordship's Grace, and leave us there to be Paid according to the Value himself shall put upon our Services: This, Gentlemen, we must tell you, is not very agreeable to those hard Struggles our Constitution hath formerly had for Liberty and Property. But waving that, we think our Services deserve a more certain Reward, than to depend on the Absolute Will of our Superior; nor that this House has any Cause to suspect his Lordship's generosity, which is particularly Eminent upon sundry great occasions; yet Gentlemen, we are loath to set an ill President to future Ages by making a Complement of our Right, which is not only founded on the Common Law and consequently Common Right of our Country, but hath been declared so by the Legislature of this Province fifty two Years ago, in an Act entituled, *An Act for raising and providing a Support for the Lord Proprietary in these Words, viz.* "That as Government is

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