

public virtue. It is asserted, Sir, and I believe truly (for we judge of men by their past acts) that you were a suppliant for those honors which other men are accustomed, (if only for form's sake,) to remind those electing them of their unsuitness for—but what are forms to you? what are courtesies to a man who despises them too much to practise them even to his superiors, except upon constraint? But perhaps, Sir, you knew, as well as I do, the men whom you then addressed, and it is more than probable that (in order to save time) your election as Speaker and the Convention Petition were agreed to at the same time. And if the members who compose the majority had already sworn allegiance to you, secure of their support, what cared you for a factious minority?—composed, too, of men of “British or foreign origin.” Well, Sir, you were elected and invested in the trappings of office—you proceeded to the Council Chamber, and with “bated breath and whispering humbleness” informed the Governor, whose authority, “though null in the hearts of all honest men,” you thus acknowledged, that the choice of the Assembly had fallen on you, and humbly prayed His Excellency to approve that choice! O, could I have entered into the recesses of that heart—could I have penetrated into the workings of that mind, what bitterness, what rancour, what malice should I there have seen!—how fain would you have exchanged the language of supplication for that of abuse and insult—how eagerly would you have returned the look of cold contempt with which you were regarded by an ebullition of those stormy passions which at that moment preyed upon your inmost soul. But this satisfaction was denied you—your Governor sat before you, the substitute of Majesty—the Representative of England's King: to him was delegated the power and authority of his Royal Master, and

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