Gentlemen,

We did not mean to give you any Offence by the Message you have been pleased to chuse for the Subject of your Animadversions, nor can we, on the strictest Review, discover in it any just Provocation for all that Asperity of language & acrimony of Resentment, of wch it seems to have been the unfortunate Occasion.

The Practice of returning Bills sent to this House is founded upon numerous Precedents, as these were upon Reason. When a Measure is proposed, are we to be compelled at all Events either to give an Assent, or Dissent to it, when we have not sufficient time to deliberate & determine upon the Propriety or Impropriety of it? is it not reasonable to make a reference to a future Session that there may be a competent Interval for Consideration, when the Intricacy, & Importance of the Subject, or the extensive Influence of a Determination may require it?

But the Bill, it seems, is in your Opinion as simple & plain, as the Object of it, is usefull & necessary.

Although it should appear by your Votes & Proceedings that a very great Majority, or even every Member of your House may be of that Opinion, must it therefore be a matter of such Absolute Certainty as to exclude the possibility of any real Diversity of Opinion among other People? if not, why should our Hesitation provoke so great Resentment?

You are pleased to observe that you did not in your Message of the 22d Instant desire us to come to any Determination upon the Bill but that it might be re-turned to you with such Propositions for amendments as we might think Expedient: but surely, if you'll stop one moment to consider, you can't fail to discover, that we could not make any Propositions for Amendments 'Till you had first determined, what was Proper to be rejected, & what fit to be adopted, or in other words 'Till