

The melancholy case of Mrs. Ackerman. Copy of a letter from a Dutch farmer, in the County of Orange, to a gentleman of the law, in the City of New-York, [and] The answer. [Signed] Z. W. New York, January 29. [New York, 1772].

The melancholy Case of Mrs. Ackerman.

Copy of a Letter from a Dutch Farmer, in the County of Orange, to a Gentleman of the Law, in the City of New-York.

Tappan de 27 Januarie 1772.

Sur

MEY weyf been so undespose dat I kannot tink foor to go to Nieu York mey oon sellef, but I beb sent your onner a fee met mey neibeur Dowe Talleman, foor your opinie. You are den foor to kno dat mey weyf, se expect to be proughten to bed in drie weeks or dareabouts, and de pepels here dat com from de Bear Market in Nieu York, they say at mey house, dat de Semblymens wil have it voor deir pravilegee dat no body but onely deir oon sellefs sal get shildrens, and no womans but deir oon weyfs, sal be proughten to Bed so long as de Sembly sal sit. Nou Mr.—, I wanten foor to kno by your Onner's oon hand, of dis be de Law or not, and of so be dat it is de Law, as mey weyfe se expecten in tree weeks, how I sal do voor to stop him.

I am your humbel Sarvent

Arie Ackerman.

P. S. Pray your Onner foor to be quick met your Opinie, or De Schild, he wil kom too soon into de Werldt.

The ANSWER.

AS Mrs. Ackerman's Case, whenever she is brought to bed, will undoubtedly be an Ejectment, (which is derived from the Latin Ejicio; and signifies to throw out, to cast forth, to void, &c.) it will be exactly in point with that which at present so much engages the public Attention. I am therefore of Opinion that she will be in danger of incurring the Guilt of a Breach of Priviledge by the Birth of the Child during the Session. But if any of the Members, or any of their Tenants or Servants, have ever been Tenants-in-common of the Premises in Question, (which is best known to Mrs. Ackerman herself) in that Case I think the Law is clear, that she may be delivered without any disrespect to the H—e. Should the Fact be otherwise, I think she ought to be immediately brought to New-York, and Mr.

Ackerman may procure a Lease at Will, and *hold her under* one of the M—s, and that also will usher the Child into *this breathing World*, without the Danger of a Contempt. But if this cannot be done with Safety, considering the advanced Stage of her Pregnancy, I would advice the Husband, as he lives on the Borders of *New-Jersey*, to have her removed into that Province with all possible Dispatch. This, however, I direct upon Supposition that the *Jersey Assembly* is not then sitting; because if it is, it would probably be deemed a Breach of the Privilege of that House. If neither of those Measures can be pursued with Safety to the Lady pregnant, I advise *Mr. Ackerman* to procure from the H—e upon *any Suggestion*, but not of *any Member*, an order to the Judges of the Supreme Court, commanding them, as the stated constitutional Servants and Anti-men-mid-wives of the H—e, to stay all farther Proceedings in the Premises.—Upon the Whole, as it is a Case of the last Importance, tho' of the first Impression, I would advice the Husband, if all the above recommended Expedients should fail, to make Interest for getting the Child, whether Male or Female, or of the doubtful Gender, while yet in *Ventre de sa Mere*, to be returned for the Borough of West-Chester, because in that Case, as there is no Order of the House that is particularly levelled to exclude the Fœtus in Question, the Midwife may clearly bring the Ejectment without Breach of Priviledge.

P. S. If any Controversy should arise, after such Order obtained, concerning the Property of the *After-birth*, —the Books I confess are rather silent on the Point; but from the Reason and Nature of the Thing, I conceive it will belong to the Sp—r, because by the Usage of the House, he is intitled to a Fee upon every Naturalization. Z. W.

New York, January 29.