

L. H. J. Law proposed to that purpose unless the Delegates would Agree to
 Lib. No. 46 such Exorbitant Rates as they are pleased to exact and to make such a Law perpetual which as those Fees are rated in Tobacco which being a Commodity of a fluctuating and uncertain Value would in time prove an Intolerable Burthen to the People, which evil We conceive to be principally owing to the Advice and Influence of his Lordships Council who at the same time they exercise a part in the Legislature without any Authority as We humbly conceive from the Royal Charter are possess of the Offices wherein the most Considerable part of those Fees arise

That Our Courts of Justice are in a great Measure shut up against the People by a late Practice of taking Judgment Bonds for Fees before they become due and by the cruel and oppressive means used by Sheriffs and other Officers in the prosecution of those Bonds

That the Courts of Judicature are absolutely under his Lordships Power and Influence inasmuch as the Judges not only hold their Places by Commission during his Pleasure but also many of them Enjoy the principal Offices of Profit and Trust in the Province by which means your Petitioners and their Constituents cannot reasonably expect an equal and impartial Administration of Justice when their Properties come in Competition in any of those Courts with that of their Proprietary or when they shall be so unhappy as to have a Proprietary capable of being so much Biassed by self Interest as to appoint Judges to Suit his own particular Purposes and your Majestys Petitioners beg leave in the most humble manner to represent that they conceive it to be altogether upon the Foot and in Confidence of this manner of appointing Judges that his Lordship takes upon him in his Court of Chancery held in his own name by Decree of his Governor under the Character of Chancellor to Vacate the Patents or Grants of Land made by himself or his Ancestors to the Inhabitants here under Pretence that the Tracts granted contain Greater Quantities of Land than were Originally intended to have been sold altho those Lands have always been at first Surveyed and laid out by their own Officers and Granted under certain Specifick Lines and Boundaries and expressed in such Grants to contain a certain number of Acres more or less and it is by the same means as we apprehend that his Lordship has of late exacted from his Tenants Alienation Fines on Devises of Land Altho there is neither any Condition in the Grants or Laws of the Province to Warrant the same by means whereof the Estates of your Petitioners are rendered altogether Precarious and Subject in a great Measure to the Arbitrary Will of the Lord Proprietary Many are the Aggrievances We suffer besides those here mentioned too Tedious to lay before Your Majesty at present and wherein We hope his Lordship will consent to relieve Us if We shall be so happy as to Obtain Your Majestys Royal Order for Redress in the Premises