

U. H.  
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them Committed, where the said Robert Morris (as the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft humbly conceiveth) ought to make his Complaint, and where the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft is censurable and punishable, nevertheless if this honble House think fit and do so require that the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft ought & must answer those rude & indigested papers so preferred as an Impeachm<sup>t</sup>. Then the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft for an Answer thereunto saith

That true It is that there is a Suit depending in the Provincial Court between the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft Pl<sup>t</sup> and the said Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris Defend<sup>t</sup> for scandalous Words by the said Robert spoke against the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft which Words are alledged to be spoke at the Lord Proprietary's House in Wild street in the City of St Marys in the County of St Marys as he humbly conceiveth it is lawful for him to do without any dishonour to our Sovereign Lord the King, It being an usual Course in practice so to do in like Cases to which the Def<sup>t</sup> if he pleases may Demurr or after Verdict (if any be in it) move in Arrest of Judgm<sup>t</sup> or bring his Writt of Error at his discretion

That the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft hath not exacted any Fees beyond the Laws and Customs of this Province for he saith that before the Settlement of the Court & since all persons did & were left to agree with their Attornys at what Rates they could in which the s<sup>d</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Morecroft hath done no more than what was done & practiced by others both before & since his coming into this Province

And further saith that it is a Prerogative invested absolutely in the Lord Proprietary to appoint Constitute & settle Courts of Judicature within this Province who accordingly did Constitute the Provincial Court by the name of the Justices of the Provincial Court & did Constitute the honourable the Lieutenant General chief Justice thereof by Virtue of which he did appoint Attornys & other Officers of the said Court but by reason that the said Fees due to the Attornys was settled by Act of Assembly in the Secretary so that they could not settle the Fees of the Attornys till that Act of Assembly was taken out of the way which could not be till an Assembly could be Called gave Liberty to the Attornys to proceed as they had done formerly in taking such Fees as they and their Clients should agree for And as to that of the Agreement in gross with any person for a Year with such who desired the same It is well known to this honourable House that it is a thing practiced in England and lawful to be practiced here being no Law to prohibit the same And the said John Morecroft further saith that he was Attorney for the said Tobias Wells in an Action of Debt brought by him the said Tobias against Jn<sup>o</sup> Wright & Mary his Wife Admin<sup>rs</sup> of the Goods & Chattels of Bartholomew Glevin dec<sup>d</sup> in which Cause Judgm<sup>t</sup> was obtain'd by