

To the Right Hon.^{ble} the Lords of the
Commity of Trade and Plantation

P. R. O.
Maryland
B. I. Vol. 2,
B. F.
p. 11

Whereas by the Laws and Constitutions of the province of Maryland in America divers offices are and have for a long time past been settled and enjoyed by their proper officers with certane Fees Profits and perquisites declared unto them appertaining. And in particular The office of Secretary of the Province at a Generall Assembly held May the 15th 1676 was by severall Acts of the said Assembly Established The Fees and perquisites thereunto belonging appointed and ascertained By which it appears That The Secretary is in the Nature of his Office Cheif Clerk Prothonotary and Register of the said Province. and as such has always nominated and Appointed the Ten clerks of the Ten County Courts of Maryland. Which Office it hath pleased their Maieteys graciously to bestow upon S^r Thomas Lawrence Barr^t by their Patent bearing date Sep^t the 5th 1691 together with all Rights Priviledges Profits perquisites and Advantages to the said office belonging incident or in any wise appertaining. And in such manner and form as any Secretary of any of their Maiestys Provinces in America for or by reason of the Exercise or Execution of such Office or Place may lawfully have receive or enioy And whereas his Maiesty hath lately Thought fit to take the Government of the said Province of Maryland into his hande and under his immediate care whereby some doubt or dispute may arise whither or no the said present Laws and Constitutions of Maryland are still in force And that by such interpretations his Maiestys Grant to S^r Thomas Lawrence may become ineffectuall to him or changed into an office different from what hath long been and is at present Constituted in the said Province and as such is granted to him by his said Patent. Upon these Considerations and to avoid all disputes which may happen touching the Nature of his said Office of Secretary of the said Province S^r Thomas Lawrence humbly representeth this Matter unto that Honorable Board And Prays That your Lordships will please to declare your Iudgement touching the force of the said present Laws and Constitutions of Maryland untill the said Laws and Constitutions shall be further explained or such new Regulations made as his Maiesty upon due Information shall in his great wisdom be pleased to approve and Confirm

Thomas Lawrence.

(Endorsed)

The Memoriall of S^r Thomas
Lawrence Barr^t secretary of
Maryland.

read at the Committee

Nov: 15: 1691.