

cacōn; M^r Dare and M^r Gundry were of my opinion yet notwithstanding Wroth, Stevens and allome would have her plact with she that was Thomas Hawkers wife who married Edward Jones and lyes on the north side of Bohemiah River, a very convenient place for the Taylor to take her away into Pensilvania. These Actings put the who Court into Tumult, the Aunt crying after her girle, the girle after her Aunt, Justice Stevens pulling the girle and she striveing to get from him, at last she got loose, and into her Aunts boat did goe, they brought her to M^{rs} Stabeleys where I met them, mine and my neighbours horses being there from whome I had all this story, There I was againe set upon and humbly for God's sake desired to take the child down with me to my wife which I did and now have her at my house; two dayes after comes Wroth and Stevens to my house to demand the child, I refused to dcliver her telling them I heard they were going to sell her to the Taylor, M^{rs} Pope telling Wroth in the open Court that he came to her and advised her to let the Taylor have the girle, and he would be bound that the Taylor should give her a discharge for that of the girles estate that was in her hands which is confest to be 16000^{lb} of Tobacco and this she offered her oath for, it did I must confesse move me soe that I told him I could well afford to suspend him of being a majestrate for his misfeizance in his office. For that he in being a majestrate to protect orphants and widowes went about to destroy them though this discourse may seeme arrogant in me yet if that power which my Lord left in me in his Cheife Justice-ship be not by later Commission abbrogated I can shew presidents on it by the cheife Justice in England and though I never intended any such thing, I thought fit to trouble you with it. In respect I guesse it will be a complaint against me Worthy sirs I doe assure you that my greatest desires are a quiet life and to live free from these troubles had not the releife of fatherless and the peace of the province been concerned in it I should not have moved—I shall make bold to trouble you with one thing more that I had the trouble of. There is one Hill that lives in sasafrax River who had a wife and was a house keeper there this man (as he told me) had occasion to goe to the Clifts or about the Herring Creeke and stayed from his wife about two Cropps These Majistrates notwithstanding they knew where he was married his wife to another man; and when he came back they kept him out both of his house, wife and land, under pretence that he lost his property in his lands, goods and house because he had lost his wife. I writt to them and I heard that they gave his house and land but whether he hath his goods & his wife I know not. I doe only acquaint you with this to let you know what kind of Justices you have there

Liber B.
P. R. O.

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