

P. R. O.
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went to wait upon the hon^{ble} Sir Thomas Lawrence Baronet their Maj^s Secretary of this Province of Maryland to know his honor's pleasure whether he should continue in his Office as clerk of Charles County his honour Sir Thomas did demand of him what the place was worth yearly and this depon^t replied that the said place was worth about 12. or 14. thousand pounds of tobacco p ann: and his honor replied that it was worth thirty thousand pounds of tobacco p ann: as he was informed and this deponent replied to his honor that since he had the said place he could not yet make twenty thousand pounds of tobacco p annum of it and that yearly he lost 4. or 5. thousand pounds of tobacco in bad debts and his honor Sir Thomas further told this deponent that a tenth part of the Fees were yearly due unto him and that a tenth part of the Fees from the date of his Commission was due unto him and that he expected to have it and that if this deponent would officiate for half profitts he would continue him in his place Whereupon this deponent replied to his honor that he had formerly officiated a long time as Deputy clerk in the said County and was now very unwilling to officiate for half profitts under any person for he knew how to get a great deal more by practising as an Attorney and when he was put into the said place after the Revolution here, the former clerke refusing to issue out writts in their Maj^{ts} names when scarce any one would undertake to officiate in the said Office & place as clerke this deponent was willing to forgoe his interest as practising as an Attorney which he supposed at that time might have been more beneficial unto him than the Clerks place meerely to serve their Majesties and the Country the s^d place then being vacant and that his undertaking to officiate in the said place did hinder him from undertaking to doe any other business, Whereupon Mr W^m Dent coming through the Councill Room where his honor Sir Thomas and this Deponent was then discoursing his honor Sir Tho^s went out and discoursed a little while with the said Dent but what their discourse was this Deponent knows not, his honor Sir Thomas comeing in again told this deponent that he might continue in his place if he would give him a bill under his hand for three thousand pounds of tobacco for the tenth part of the Fees of the said place from the date of his Commission to that time and that if his tenth part came not to so much upon perusall and view of the accounts he would deduct out of the same what was over and above his tenth part and his honor Sir Thomas alsoe told this deponent that he must give him bond with two sufficient securities for the due execution of his office in the said place and yearly to pay unto him a tenth part of the Fees and Profits accruing and growing due thereby, whereupon this