

Liber K.

Maryland Dec^r 21st 1692

May it Please your Lordships

Since our last to your Lordships of the 14th of October last we have had fresh and repeated occasions of representing to your Ldshps the irregular and undue proceedings of Sr Thomas Lawrence their Majestys Secretary of this province daily pursuing and putting in Practice his former wonted inclinations and endeavours to promote & advance his own private Interest above their Majestys Service, continually & only associating himself with Papists and other Male Contents their Majestys open and known Enemies, countenancing none but them, and endeavouring to raise and foment differences and their private animosities against the Government and not only so but (as we are credibly advised) hath used his Skill to asperse and scandalize the same to their Majestys and your Lordships by his most notorious false informations and suggestions from whence we hold our selves obliged with submission to vindicate and defend our selves before your Lordships and the whole world and to assure your Lordships that as our zeal for their Majestys Service shall lead us principally to the Promoting of their Interest so our own naturall inclinations shall never sway with us to do him or any Particular Person whatsoever willingly any wrong

One thing we observe has particularly disturbed him and humbly Conceive he may have not fairly and candidly represented as one of his Grievance (*viz*^t) that he is abridged of a Certain Fee or fine assessed upon the Innholders or Ordinary Keepers of this Province yearly for their Lycense which the Lord Baltimore did formerly of his own free will bestow on the Secrys his own Creatures and relations in lieu of some other fee of greater Value taken from them, which he might also take from them at his Pleasure so that they never had or cou'd claim any right or Property therein but meerly his Lordships Bounty he likewise conceives himself Injured in being debarred of a Certain other Fee of fourty Shillings Sterl by Act of Assembly of this Province now settled upon the Governor for Entring and Clearing of every Ship or Vessel trading here in lieu and full of a Fee formerly termed Secretarys fees but taking by his Lordship under colour of an old Law long since abrogated by his Lordships own Consent and for which now the Governor doth employ and maintain convenient Officers to Perform that Duty in the respective entring Ports of this Province, so that we humbly offer it to your Lordships more judicious Consideration whether Malice Avarice & Self Interest rather than any just cause or the publick good have not induced him to such illegall methods of proceedings and consequently been the only ground of his supposed Grievance