

Letters Patents bearing date the 5th day of September 1691. to grant unto your Petitioner the Office and place of Secretary of Mariland in America with all rights, Priviledges, Profits, Perquisites and advantages to the said Office belonging incident or in any wise appertaining. Your Petitioner prepared himself with all diligence for his voyage thither, but was not able by reason of severall disappointm^{ts} and a long continuance on board the Wolf from the 12th of April to the 30th of August, to come into Mariland from New York untill the 16th day of September last 1692.

P. R. O.
Maryland
B. I. Vol. 2,
B. G.

At his arrivall your Petitioner was much surprised to find all advantages taken against him and his Office in his absence, for by one Act of the Generall Assembly of this Province held the 10th of May last at S^t Mary's, entituled an Act for settling of the Naval Officers Fees within this Province, the yearly income of clearing of ships, which in that very Act is called Secretary's Fees, and which were payable by a Law to the Secretary from the year 1662. to the year 1676. are now made payable by a Fee of forty shillings for every vessell to His Excellency the Gov^r. And also by another Act of the same late Assembly called an Act for regulating Ordinaries, all the benefitt of licencing them through this Province which had for 14. or 15. years last past to the beginning of the late Revolution, been collected by the Sheriffs and paid for the Ordinary Keepers to the Secretarys proper use, is now also vested in the Governor, to his yearly loss of at least one hundred and fifty pounds sterling. Both which Lawes were in June last sent over for your Majesty's confirmation.

And whereas by one other Law passed in the same Generall Assembly termed An Act for limitation of Officers Fees, the Fees and chief profits of the Secretary are enacted & confirmed in the very same words and manner as they have stood for many years past, His Excellency notwithstanding by a single Order of Council dated the 17th of August 1692 hath thought fitt, contrary to that Law to appoint that all the Writts called Chancery Writts, always issuable, and now going out of the Secretary's Office should thenceforth issue out of Chancery, and the Fees thereunto belonging to be paid to the present Chancelor (now Colonel Jeremiah Blakiston) who of a bare ministerial Officer and Keeper of the Seal, as by his Fees in the late Law sett down appears, is now made sole Judge in Chancery, though at the same time, he sits next Commissioner to the Governor in the Provinciaall Court, Supreme Court of Common Law, which said Order though not yet put in execution, is by another late Order affirmed to be fitt and just, but referred to the next Sessions in April following though within the three years to be enacted and