

Letter Bk. IV than four or five hundred Pounds Stg a year at least, & all the
 Salary or Allowance which the Provincial Justices have is
 p. 121 about fourteen Shillings a Day for every Day they actually
 attend the Court & this too never paid them but when the
 Journal passes. this being the Case what measures can be
 taken in order to bring better Men on the Bench than are
 there at present; I know none in the Province that having
 devoted any considerable Part of their time to the Study of
 the Law have now declined the Practice except Col^o Goldsbo-
 rough & Col^o Henry who as I have already hinted are already
 there. I have always thought there was a great Impropriety
 in County Clerks being Provincial Justices & therefore I took
 the Liberty to mention the same to His Ldp in a Letter which
 I had the honour to write to him the 6th of June 1754 & yet
 in fact I do not know that those of them whose Names are in
 the Provincial Commission are treated while on the Bench
 with the less Respect for being Clerks of Counties; Not They
 but their Deputies or Assistants commonly attend the County
 Courts, & perhaps after they have been so long continued in
 the Provincial Commission it might be thought hard to remove
 them, unless they have been guilty of Partiality or otherwise
 rendered themselves unworthy of such a Trust, Nevertheless
 there is as I have intimated above an Impropriety in the Thing:
 The Gentlemen against whom this Objection lies are M^r Brice
 the Clerk of Annarundel County, Col^o Rich^d Tilghman the
 Clerk of Queen Anns County & M^r John Darnall the Clerk of
 Frederick. Perhaps the second of these may in his Heart be
 at this time disaffected to His Ldp's Gov^t as one of his Brothers
 p. 122 I mean the late Rent Roll Keeper is so deep in the Opposition,
 but as I have never heard that his Conduct on the Bench hath
 been at any times partial or counter to the Ld Proprietary's
 Interest in particular, I do not think it would have been poli-
 tictk to strike him out purely on Account of his Brother's &
 some other of his Relations Proceedings, for the People would
 have been then made to believe that His Ldp was for making
 the Judges subservient to his Directions or the Pleasure of His
 Lieut^t Gover^r which Opinion was it to prevail would probably be
 attended with ill Consequences & be the Cause of a Bill's being
 brought into the Lower House to continue the Judges of the
 Provincial Court during good Behaviour which is the Form
 you know in England, & it is also established in some of
 the Northern Colonies, while the Justices of our Provincial
 Court are liable to be removed at pleasure. As to M^r
 Darnall he I think must be well disposed towards the Proprie-
 tary, I am sure he has great Reason to be so, having long
 enjoyed a very good Office which he owes to the Bounty of
 His Ldp's Father; neither Col^o Tilghman's Abilities nor his