

U. H. J. are willing the Party Accused or Suspected should be put to prove where he had it.

The Act for Enrollment of Conveyances &c. as to the fees therein Mentioned Alledged by the Board to be Vested in the Governor and Council to Ascertain; They say it is the Privi-
 p. 628 ledge of the Freemen of this Province not to have any fees Imposed or Extorted from them but by their own Consent in Assembly, And this they have Unanimously Voted in their house to be their undoubted right, backed by Magna Charta. His Excellencys Instructions in that particular read, to them authorizing him with his Council to Regulate the Officers fees in this Province, They recite severall Statutes of England shewing the Settlement of all fees to be by Act of Parliament To which is Answered that the Governor and Council does not take upon them, nor is it intended, Settle or New found any fees of themselves, but his Excellency, where Occasion shall be for the Ease and Satisfaction of the People and for their relief against Oppression, may and hath power with the Advice of his Council to regulate and moderate those fees already Settled or hereafter to be Appointed as he shall see fit and Convenient; They say that such Provision will be made for that in another Act now preparing for Officers fees; as they doubt not will give his Excellency full Satisfaction in that point.

His Excellency proposes to them the making indefinite and not Temporary what Laws they shall think fitt to make as good and wholesome for the Inhabitants and their good Government thereby to save the Charge of Assemblys meeting on purpose to revive those Laws, and if at any time hereafter any of them become Burthensome or grievous they may be repealed and made Void; To which they answer that they have Sufficiently Experienced the ill Consequence of perpetual Laws so Called as to give them Caution of being too forward in passing too Many of that kind again; But for what Bills are preparing now; if his Excellency shall not think fit or Safe for him to pass them as they are drawn, and shall please to Signifie his reasons therefore to the house, they will endeavour to give him Satisfaction therein & Comply with anything reasonable.

The Act for marking high ways &c. they consent to Impose a Penalty on the Overseers for their Defect as desired.

Recommended to them the making of a Law in favour of Negroes & Slaves to prevent the Barbarous Tyrannical and Inhumane usage of them as is too much Practiced by some People here, They consent thereto and will accordingly provide by a Law Declarative of the Laws of England in such like Cases.