

Day our Court should have been holden, and just before the Court went to sitt cometh the Sheriff and served his warrant upon One of the Justices and the Clark, and sett a guard upon the Justice and told them he would make them know themselves before he had done, and did huff at a strange rate, and for want of a Justice and a Clark we could hold noe Court to the great disappointm<sup>t</sup> and Damage of Many of the County. The Sheriff have said many a time he could out witt the whole County at his pleasure, it did now stand him instead to trye his witt, there being Six Actions for above 500<sup>l</sup> sterling (in which he is the Def<sup>t</sup>) would have come to tryall had there been a Court, and after the Sheriff had kept the Justice during his pleasure he gave me the warrant to take bayle, and when I had read the warrant I examined Evan Carew the under Sheriff, whither he owned the complaint made in the warrant, and he would not, but said he marvelled how such words was devised, and that Philip Holeager and Swithen Wells did not threaten him neither was he any wayes afraid of his life as in the warrant express'd: Soe that it doe appear that it was a contrived business of the Sheriff to hinder the Court ffor the Monday before the Court should have been The Sheriff told me there should be noe Court Wee have had more disturbances since M<sup>r</sup> English was Sheriff then all the time Cap<sup>t</sup> Sibrey was Sheriff before him, and this I thought good to signifye to your Hono<sup>r</sup> who is your humble Servant

27<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>br</sup> 1681:

Cecill.

James Staveley

Directed

To the R<sup>t</sup> hon<sup>ble</sup> the L<sup>d</sup> Prop<sup>ty</sup>  
humbly Present

These

James Staveley and others Petitioners against Edward English being then present were severally Examined and Required to give in their testimony upon oath what they could alledge against the said English and first

James Staveley saith that sometime before the Court M<sup>r</sup> English came to his house and required him to aid and assist him in the takeing of a man in the County which he the said Staveley refusing to doe, English sent for the man to his house and there arrested him. But the said Staveley told him that he needed not trouble the poor man for security for that he would certainly be at Court, to which M<sup>r</sup> English replyed that there should be noe Court. at the Court M<sup>r</sup> English seized the man and told him he was his Prisoner without bayle or mainprize, but told the said Staveley that if he would be his