

Lib. H. D. The State of the Case between Sr Thomas Laurence Secretary of the province and Mr William Hemsley of Talbott County.

Humbly represented to his Ex^{ncy} in Councill.

Sr Thomas Complaint agt Wm Hemsley abt the Land Records & cca
 Sr Thomas Laurence being his Ma^{ts} Secretary of this Province, and by Virtue of his Office being intrusted with the keeping of all the Records belonging to the Land Office, Brought an Action agt the s^d William Hemsley in the year 1694 for that the s^d Hemsley in the time of the Revolution and before the Government was Setled by his Ma^{ty} or a Secretary appointed did procure Mr John LLeuellin who at that time had the keeping of all the Land Records to make him out Coppys of all the Certificates of all the Lands which from the beginning of the seating of this Province to that time had been layd out and Surveyed in that County by which means the s^d Hemsley has in a manner wholly cut off the Legall perquisites of the s^d Sr Thomas his Office and takes to himself the proffits thereof in Talbot County, & breeds continuall disturbance and contention between his Ma^{ts} Subjects who have Lands in the s^d County; upon w^{ch} Action the s^d Sr Thomas obtained a Verdict against the s^d Hemsley, ffor that the damage be sustained and the great strife that was thereby fomented between the inhabitants did plainly appear both to the Court and Jury.

But fforasmuch as by the s^d Verdict, nor any Judgm^t which can be made thereupon the s^d Sr Thomas cannot take away from the s^d Hemsley the Coppys afores^d whereby further mischiefs may be prevented as well to the people of the s^d County as to the s^d Sr Thomas his Office—Therefore the s^d Sr Thomas humbly Requesteth that yo^r Ex^{ncy} would issue forth an Ord^r for the Surrender of the s^d Coppys as an Act of State for preserving the peace and Quiet of the s^d County or Take such other measures as shall be thought most convenient to relieve all party's injur'd by the s^d Hemleys having the Custody of the Copy's of the s^d Record.

By his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r & Councill, Octo. the 9th 1696.

Ord^r to Mr Attorney & Sollicitor Gen^l to make Report
 Ordered that the within Peticōn be Referred to Mr Attorney & Sollicitor Gen^l together with the Deposition hereunto Annex't for them to make Report to this Board, what is best and most proper to be done therein.

Signed p Ord^r Hen: Denton Cl Councill