

said Bladen an Attorney retayned against him into the Possession of all his fees & perquisites of Office It is only to make a colourable pretence of some hardship done to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas when indeede there is not any, as may appear by the Minutes in Council of the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1704. When the Council being inform'd of the Death of Coll William Dent whome S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurence had left his attorney here, did inquire Who tooke Care of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas's concerns. And being made sensible that S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurence had made over and assigned all the fees Perquisites and Proffits of his Secretarys Office to William Bladen for the Satisfaction & payment of two hundred & fifty pounds Ster & 15293<sup>ls</sup> Tobacco did thinke the Said William Bladen the Properest Person to take Care of such fees, And whereas it was absolutely Necessary that the said S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurence's Clerks who mannage the Office and the Deputy Secretary should be paid their respective Sallarys, It was Ordered that the Said Bladen should take Care and see them paid out of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas's fees Which wee hope all Reasonable men will approve of without observing the least Shadow of Disrespect to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurence therein not being in the least conscious to our Selves thereof.

Whereas S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurence in his Letter to his Excellency seems to retorte that his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> had wrote him the Bill imposing fynes for Ordinary Lycences was not a Possitive Law but only Petitionary which his Said Excellency had so proposed on purpose out of a true reguarde to the said S<sup>r</sup> Thomas's Interest, Yet he finds the Said Law to be Positive as well as the Rest, and for want of his Said Excellencys Reasons sent with the Law he is like to be Stript of two years Profit of that Branch of his Office Wee very well remember how Tender his Excellency was of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Lawrence her Majestys Secretarys Interest therein thō it was Strongly asserted that the Said Secretary had no right thereto and are assured that his Said Excellency did Propose the Said Law should be Petitionary to the end to give S<sup>r</sup> Thomas a better handle to make his Pretentions Appear before her most Sacred Majesty in Council, and in Case his Excellency had not then agree to the Bill as Proposed yett S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Could not reap any benefitt for that the former Act of Assembly for levyng those fines having been a temporary Law & Expired there there was no power to receive those Lycences Vested in any Person Wherefore this Article is also a very unjust & groundless Charge against his Said Excellency the Governour who is thus unhandsomely rewarded for his favour and friendship to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas.

S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Laurences Complaint that the Searches in the Land Office were cut off to one Moyety & other fees abridged