

Lib. 41. to advertise you thereof and that we do not think it advisable the said Herman's Evidence now fortified with many concurrent Testimonies should be rendered invalid

Signed p Order W Bladen Cl. Council.

Bill apportioning of the publick Levy, Read the first & second Time & will pass

M^r John Gresham, Sheriff of Ann Arundel County according to Order of the House attended & being called in M^r Speaker was pleased to acquaint him that the House was informed thro' his Neglect there were several Criminal Prisoners, an Indian Enemy & a white Criminal Servant made their Escape out of Prison by which it appeared to the House the Province was much damnified. Upon which M^r Gresham offered some Matters in his Defence Ordered he withdraw

Thereupon the House took it into Consideration and debated the same and having so done the said Gresham was commanded again to appear and M^r Speaker was then pleased to ask him some Questions relating to the said Escape & acquainted him it was an Offence of a high Nature Upon that M^r Gresham could give no satisfactory Excuse to the House. Then he was asked what he demanded from the Public for the Prisoners Imprisonment Fees; who answered he knew not certainly but could soon produce his Account. Afterwards it was proposed to him by M^r Speaker whether he would release the Imprisonment Fees of Benjamin Celey & the other two that made their Escape. To which he readily consented and did declare he was very willing to discharge the same and in the House did release all their Imprisonment Fees. Whereupon the House again took the Matters into Consideration and upon the said Gresham's Submission this House do acquit & discharge the said John Gresham from further Damages that may arise against him for the Escape aforesaid. Whereupon M^r Gresham returned his most humble & hearty Thanks to the House for their Favours & so withdrew.

The Petition of James Smallwood praying an Allowance for an Horse spoiled going up to the Indian Fort being read is allowed by Majority of Votes one thousand Pounds of Tobacco. Ordered the Committee take Notice thereof.

The following brought into the House this Day was ordered to be read & entered as followeth

Die Mercurij 23^d May 1705 By the Council in Assembly.

Upon reading the Debates of your House upon the Report of the Conference, yesterday, As to that Part relating to