

By the Committee of Aggrievances November 2nd 1709

L. H. J.
Lib. 4t.

It is represented as an Aggrievance that the Secretary of Maryland should claim and assume to himself without any Authority either by Law or by his Commission such arbitrary Despotick Power over the several Clerks in the Provincial and County Courts and also over the Register in Chancery as to turn all or any of them out of their respective Offices at his Pleasure without being liable to shew Cause to the respective Courts where such Clerks are Officers for his so doing by which Practices has not only Opportunity of depriving our Sovereign Lady the Queen of her approved Servants in those Offices for his mere Phantasie and imposing upon the Queen and her Subjects such Persons to serve in such Offices as are only qualified to receive the Profits whilst perhaps a more deserving Person being their Deputy for a small Salary do the Business but also an Opportunity of constraining them to comply with any Demands of his tho' never so unreasonable whether it be to the Prejudice of the Queen or her Subjects here upon Pain of his Displeasure, which is the Loss of his Office and perhaps his only Dependance for Bread; and also by his having such an Arbitrary and illegal Power as aforesaid their Offices are made so very precarious that they are rendered very liable to Corruption in them either out of ffear or ffavour to the Secretary who is often himself a Suitor to those Courts; and also the said Practices tend very much to the Discouragement of the Inhabitants to qualifie themselves or their Children for such Offices.

And further it's offered as an Aggrievance that the Secretary does not pursue the Orders of his late Majesty King William in Council annexed by Way of his Instructions to said Office, but acts contrary thereto and demands from the County Clerks a considerable Sum of Money or Tobacco Yearly on Pretence of having a Right to tenth Part of their Perquisites, tho' he has never complied with the Conditions upon which such tenth Part was to be given him, for if the tenth Part were lessened in the County Clerks fees or otherwise applied to the publick Use it might be of great Service to the Country; whereas it is now paid to one that demands it as his Right in Consideration of doing a Thing which he has never done. All which is humbly offered to the Consideration of the Honble House of Delegates

Signed p Order Jn^o Beale C^lk Com.

Which being read it's Resolved an Aggrievance and referred to the next Session of Assembly for further Consideration

The Committee of Aggrievances further reports as follows
Viz^t