

Monday May the 5<sup>th</sup> 1718

U. H. J.

Att a Committee of Aggrievances Held at the House of M<sup>rs</sup> Mary Dodd.

Were Present

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Tyler Chairman

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M <sup>r</sup> Charles Wright		Cap <sup>t</sup> Daniel Marriartee
Coll <sup>o</sup> Nath <sup>l</sup> Hynson		Capt. Thomas Dent

Who the same Day represent it as an Aggrievance that a great Number of the Inhabitants of this pvince have been Subp<sup>a</sup> to appear at the High Court of Chancery to answer the Bill of Complaint of Maurice Birchfield Esq<sup>r</sup> upon a Suggestion that they were Indebted to a Certain Jn<sup>o</sup> Goodwin and Other merch<sup>ts</sup> in London before making any Demand or giving Notice of such their Claim some of Which never had any Dealings with the merchants they are Charged Debtors to. Others have Been Large Creditors instead of Debtors and many that were Debtors did by the said Merch<sup>ts</sup> Own Accounts owe but very small and Trifling Sums short of Six pounds which by the Laws of the land are not cognizable in the Chancery Court notwithstanding which such psons have been Obliged to make answer and Defend their Suites to their great Expence and neglect of their Business in Attendance of Courts And when on a hearing the greatness of their Oppressions by such severe psecutions have been made appear they have been Dismissed the Court But Could not recover no Costs ag<sup>t</sup> the said Birchfield Because of his Acting on Behalf of the Crown Altho the Trouble and Charge of such Defence might have been saved to the People in case the said Birchfield or his Attorney had not Proceeded after so uncommon and immethodical a manner against the sev<sup>l</sup> Defend<sup>ts</sup> without Demand or notice sev<sup>l</sup> of them having Declared in their Answers upon Oath that they were never Demanded by the said Maurice Birchfield Esq<sup>r</sup> or any Other on her Majestys Behalf to give any Account of the Matters in the Bill untill they were served with Subp<sup>a</sup> to answer the same of which they declare the said Maurice Birchfield might have had the utmost Satisfaccon they were able to give upon Subp<sup>a</sup> to testifie or request made without being put to the unnecessary Charge to Answer the same

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It is therefore the Humble Opinion of this Committee that the said Maurice Birchfield Esq<sup>r</sup> or others Concerned in the pscution af<sup>d</sup> have made an undue Use of his Majestys Name and Authority to the Oppression of his good Subjects here and that such Proceedings could never be Agreeable to the Design of the Trust reposed in him or them

Signed p order  
Philip Hammond, Cl Com