

was under the Crown, Your Committee thought Sufficient to L. H. J. Shew that the usage hath been as already mentioned, in Regard that the practice for that Whole time is soe well known to every one that has been a Juditiall or Ministerial Officer Or hath had any thing to doe in the Courts of Law and we are of Opinion that the Addition of any thing more in a Case soe very Clear Would Rather be troublesome then Necessary.

Your Committee beg leave to Observe that Severall Records and other Writings were lost in the Time of the Revolution in removeing the records from S<sup>t</sup> Maries hither, and When the State house was burnt, Which we beleive to have Contained Severall things, to the Present Purpose, and even in the Books we have inspected, We make no question but there are Severall things Very materiall which we have Over looked Yet we hope that what we have Collected, Will be Sufficient to evince, that as well the Governours as the people Governed Within this Province since it's first Settlement, or at least ever since we Can find any foot Steps of Assemblys or Judicial Proceedings, deemed the General Statutes of England to have the force of Laws in Maryland, and your Committee Conceive it Plain and evident from the reason and nature of the things that it Could not be otherwise, ffor as the first Inhabitants of the Country were Brittaines, and maney of them transplanted themselves at a great expence, and run the Greatest hazards to become more Usefull to their Mother Country and were Encouraged thereto as well by the Royal Charter Which fully declares (if such a Declaration were necessary) that they and their Posterity Should retain all the Rights and Liberties of English men as the Publick Declarations made by the Lord Prop<sup>ty</sup> to induce people to come into the Province, and all these things frequently Recognized by the Lords Proprietors themselves by assenting to several Declaratory Acts of Assembly of those rights and liberties it would (we Conceive) be very Strange and unreasonable, and most Miserable Would our Case be, if freemen by Runing such Risques and becomeing beneficiall to their Mother Country, Should be in Worse Circumstances than their fellow Subjects and denied to participate with them in those things that are equally their birth Rights and be in a State of Slavery (as the Case must undoubtedly be of any People that have not the means of Preserving their Liberties) and it would be a great Absurdity to advance that we are intituled to all the Rights and Liberties of British Subjects and that we Can't have the Benefite of the Laws by which those Rights and Liberties are Reserved.

A Bill for the relief of Sundry poor prisoners was read