

to the order of their Creditors, on pretence the Act for L. H. J. Direction of Sheriffs only relates to the person of the Creditors and not to his order, or on some such like frovolous Pretences.

Your Committee further humbly offers (according to the parol Instructions they have recēd from yo^r Hon^{rs}) that on a full consideracōn of the Circumstances of this office, the many Complaints that are Yearly offerr'd to the Assembly to the Great delay of other publick busieness and the generall murmurs of the people concerning them can Scarcely be prevented or remedied by any certain written Rules of Direction in that part; for as the Sheriffs in this province by having the generall Collection of all publick dues and officers fees as well as by other Duties & powers Rightly annext to their office, have a much Greater influence upon the people than Sheriffs or any other officers in England, known to your Committee and that their office consists of so many severall kinds of Duties as are Scarcely Reducible to Certain Rules The most likely way to make the Sheriff and people easy with each other would [be to] make them in Some Sort dependent on each other so that it might be the Interest of the Sheriff to recommend himself to the people by an Equall Just and tender Execution of his office and that the people might be endear'd to the Sher by having him one of their own Choice who would Surely be so acceptable to them as that they would not complain ag^t him without Cause and if they had Cause they might have Liberty at the end of a reasonable time to make a better Choice and be themselves answerable as Sureties for his good Demeanor in his office By this Viz: By a free Election of Sherriffs according to the common Law of England, Yo^r Committee conceives all troublesome Clamour would be avoided and all Impositions on the Governo^r or Prime minister for the time being, prevented by having persons recommended to him as fitt for those offices, that may be unworthy or perhaps unqualified by Law as (your Committee is informed) was the Case of the present Sheriff of Cecil County who had not been three years in the province before he had obtained that Commission, nor as some alledge was either then or yet a ffreeholder and the Governour be thereby eased of the Trouble of importunate Solicitations, and of the pain of being Sometimes obliged to deny the request of whom he respects, when perhaps more than one may Solicite at one and the same time for the same office, that one can only be obliged in, and as the Grant of that office is of no advantage but a trouble to the person Granting it, We hope it may be thought the rather Conducive to the common Satisfaction of Prerogative and people, and by