

L. H. J. Which said aggrievances were Sign'd by a Considera[ble number ?] of the Inhabitants of the said County and the report Endorst Viz.

By the Committee of Aggrievances

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1725

On Perusing the Paper of aggrievances hereunto Annext from Somerset County we are humbly of Opinion that the first Second, third and fourth Articles thereof are worthy the Consideration of the House and fit to be remedied but the fifth we do not find to be any Grievance but a Generall benefit and part of the fourth So farr as relates to the paying five or ten shillings Extraordinary for Speciall Comissions we take not properly to fall under the consideration of the House as an abuse unprovided against, but that it is an Extortion against the Laws in force.

p. 207 M<sup>r</sup> George Plater Reg<sup>r</sup> of the Com<sup>rys</sup> office having acquainted the Clerk of this Committee that he should be Ready [to] attend on any Complaint against him, has notice to Attend on a Complaint from Somerset County relating to his taking a Fee for every Speciall Comission, who thereupon appears, and on hearing the Complaint gives in Substance the following Answer.

That before he Came to that office he was inform'd that the money perquisites for drawing and Stateing accounts would be worth forty or fifty pounds a year, But that when he Came to that office he found it no such thing, and Complain'd to the Comissaries that his Sallary was Small and the perquisites of the office much Lessened by the frequent Granting Speciall Comissions, and that thereupon he moved the Com<sup>rys</sup> for Leave to Charge a fee of five Shillings for every Speciall Comission to pass an Account under an hundred pounds and ten Shillings for all above and that the Comissarys told him they thought it but reasonable and thereupon he informs the Committee that he wrote to Severall of the Deputy Comissaries requiring them to insist on such ffees, but that since he heard they were Complain'd of he has given orders to the Contrary and should not insist further thereon and that he should be ready to give an Account of what he has received; all which is Reported and humbly Submitted to the House

Sign'd p ord<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Hepbourn Cl. Com.

The Aggrievances Complain'd of by the Inhabitants of Cecil County viz.

1<sup>st</sup> That officers ffees are rated in Tobacco, and that in Scarse years they Exact treble the value viz: twenty Shillings