

they could by no means take it ill that they were Expected to answer them, nor properly Call it an Accusation. Your Committee therefore proceeded to ask whether they or any of them had taken the Oath of Justice agreed upon by both Houses of Assembly as necessary to the Due administration of Justice but particularly whether they had taken any oath of Justice that had the Clause in it mentioned in the Resolves of this House, which Clause your Committee Read to them Whereupon the Chief Justice askt your Committee if that was all Your Committee Reply'd that they were Instructed to ask them that, and desired their answer to it. Thereupon The Chief Justice desired that such Questions as were to be askt them might be given them in writing whereupon your Committee desired them to withdraw, and on Considering of the Motion were unanimously of the Opinion that Your Committee ought to proceed according to the Method they had begun in as most agreeable to their sence of the Houses Instructions, and on the Magistrates again appearing, the opinion of the Committee was again declared to them, Whereupon the Chief Justice Insisted on his having them in Writing, and said he thought it an hardship to be denied it, which he desired Your Committee to Lay before Your Honours, in which M^r James Govane alone joyned with him, alledging that he could not give so direct an Answer without it. Your Committee thereupon acquainted them they should lay it before the House, And the Gentlemen then Answered the Question that they never had such oath of Justice offered them as the Question Mentions. L. H. J
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Your Committee then acquainted them that the next Question they should ask would be what they had already given Some Answer to, when they desired to be heard at the Barr of the House viz: What was their Reasons for disallowing a Statute of England to be Read in the Afternoon when they had desired in the forenoon to hear it Read on the Arguments Concerning the Convicts at their Last County Court, on which they answered, that after their Court in August Last Adjourn'd till the afternoon of that day, when the Arguments were used before Concerning the Convicts, His Honour the Governour met them at M^r Bowes's and told them of the Statute made in the fourth Year of his Majesty Concerning the Transportation of Convicts and told them to take Care that they were not lead into a Snare as the Corporation was.

Also your Committee enquired if they knew the Causes of the great Alterations made in their County Comission to which they Answered they were unacquainted therewith.

Signed p order Sam^l Hepburn Cl Come.