

out intending to put it into his own power to increase his fees by such his power to Execute the allowing such fees is therefore humbly Offered as an Aggrievance and Also that some Sheriffs insist upon a discount of 10 p Cent for paying What they owe and Refuse to discount debts due from themselves to the order of their Creditors on pretence the Act for direction of Sheriffs only relates to the Person of the Creditors and not to his order, or some such like frivilous pretensions

Your Committee further humbly Offers (according to the Paroll Instructions they have received from your Honours) that on a full consideration of the Circumstances of this Office the many Complaints that are Yearly offered to the Assembly to the great delay of other publick Business and the general 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 General Collection of all publick dues and Officers fees as well as by other duties and 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 there Office consists of so many Several kinds of Duties as are Scarcely Reducable 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 dependant on each other so that it might be the Interest of the Sheriff to recommend himself to the People by an equal Just and tender Execution of his Office and the people might be endeared to the Sheriff by having him one of their own Choice who would Surely be so Acceptable to them as that they would not complain against him without cause and if they had cause they might have Liberty at the end of a reasonable Term to make a better Choice and be themselves answerable as Sureties for his Good Demeanour in his Office by this Viz. By a free Election of Sheriffs according to the Common Law of England. Your Committee conceives all troublesome Clamours would be avoided and all Impositions on the Governor or prime Minister for the time being prevented by having persons recommended to him as fit 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 Freeholder and the Governor be thereby eased of the Trouble of importunate Sollicitations & of the pain of being sometimes Obliged to deny the request of whom he respects when perhaps more than one may sol-