

L. H. J. The Petition of Richard Edwards a languishing Prisoner in the Gaol of Queen Anns County being this day read in the House is granted and Ordered that a Bill be brought in for the Petitioners releif.

The Petition of Nathaniel Wright a Languishing Prisoner in the Gaol of Queen Anns County was read and granted and ordered that a Bill be brought in for the Petitioners releif.

The following Message being prepared is ordered to be Entred thus (Viz.) [The text of this message is printed at page 106.]

p. 14 This Message was sent by James Hollyday Esq^r and M^r Tolley who return and acquaint the House they delivered the same.

Coll^o Tilghman from the Upper House delivers M^r Speaker the following Message (Viz) [The text of this message is printed at page 107.]

Daniel Dulany Esq^r Chairman of the Committee of Laws delivers M^r Speaker from the said Committee the following Report (Viz)

By the Committee of Laws. October 5th 1728

Your Committee having taken into their Consideration the form of the Oath of Judge mentioned in his honour the Governors Speech as recommended by the Right Hoñble the Lord Proprietary have made the few observations following thereon.

1st We take it as a truth not to be denied, with any Shew of reason that the Benefit of the Laws of England as well Statute as Common is the undoubted Right of the People of Maryland and that their Representatives could not be Guilty of anything more Destructive to the Rights and Liberties of those who have entrusted
p. 15 them, more inconsistent with their own Duty or more base and treacherous Than to give up or Consent to impair or Lessen that Right and that as the best of Laws without being duly executed are insignificant and useless so the benefit of the good & wholesome English laws will be of none Advantage to the British Subject residing in Maryland unless all possible Care be taken that Justice be equally, justly and impartially administred according to the Directions of the said Laws and that the Judges be under the Tie of an Oath to discharge so essentiall and necessary Part of their Duty.

2^{dly} That altho the words (the Laws Customs and Directions of the Acts of Assembly) seem to be terms unknown to the Laws as there applied and indeed an Impropiety, Your Committee will not trouble you with any particular Observation on that part referring the same to future Consideration but another Part of the Oath which runs in these words according to the Laws Statutes and reasonable Customs of England as have been Used and Practised in this Province, is not to be Passed over, for it seems to your Com-