

By the Lower house of Assembly Aug^t 3^d 1732

U. H. J.

May it please Your Honours.

We again take the liberty of Recommending to your Consideration the Miseries of the poor Languishing Prisoners, and altho we agree with your Honours that it is not Consistant with the Natural Justice to deprive any Man of the least part of his right unheard (which is what we Apprehend to be your Honours meaning with Regard to the Discharging Prisoners for Debt) yet We beg leave to observe that, that is not the present Case, and that no person can possibly suffer by the releasing poor unfortunate Men, Who are willing to give up every thing They have in the world to their Creditors, and thereby make all the Satisfaction in their power, That their Continuing in close confinement will instead of increasing lessen their Estates and Consequently be a detriment and not an Advantage to their Creditors, besides as their future Acquisitions will be Subject to the payment of their Just Debts, so the sooner they are Enlarged, the Sooner they will be in a Condition by their Labour and Industry to Satisfy their Creditors in part or the whole, Whereas a long Confinement will Certainly impair the health of such as may Escape with Life, and render any Satisfaction being made to the Creditors wholly impossible. This house is Informed that there are now above Twenty Men in the Goal of Prince Georges County (and many more Expected to be in the same Condition very soon) which number being confined in so Narrow a Compass as any of our Goals, must prove fatal to many of them, and the Maintaining so many ruinous to the Sheriffe. p. 222

Your Honours are very sensible of the Melancholy Condition the Count[r]y is in, and that great Numbers of even Industrious People have been obliged to run in debt beyond what they are able to comply with, and should their Creditors be rigorous and the Legislature not Interpose great part of the Province would soon be depopulated, and no new Inhabitants could be Expected in the Room of those that would leave it.

As to the Prisoners who have Applied to this Assembly and are mentioned in the two bills sent to your Honours this House is willing to come into any measures to Subject them to any Examination before the County Courts or at the next Assizes to the end that if any of them have Committed any frauds they may be Detected, and that such as have done so may receive no benefit from the Acts, which Expedient this House conceives will Effectually obviate the Objection made by Your Honours.

This Provision being made We request your Hono^{rs} will pass the Bills

Signed p order M Macnemara Cl. Lo. Ho.