

Attornys & have always taken the Oaths of Attornys and are L. H. J. Obliged to do not only all the Business of Attorney Sollicitor & Council but Very Often of Book-keepers in drawing and Stating the Accounts of their Clyents without which such Accounts wou'd not be Intelligible and of Surveyors too in all Causes relating to the bounds of Land which are much the Greater number of Ejectments and Actions of Trespass and even of drawing the Entrys of Clerks and returns of Sherrifs to prevent Errors in the Proceedings the Circumstances have very frequently induced the Clyents to give the Lawyer such Gratuitys as they (the Clyents) have thought reasonable Compensations for the Services done them, or which they Expected of which they (the Clyents) were always the Judges and it is to be presumed Seldom Exceeded what was reasonable and the Lawyers dare not insist on any thing more than the Limited fees, Tobacco being the Staple Commodity of Maryland the Lawyers fees are Limited & Paid in that Specie which is Generally Collected by the Sherrifs who have ten p Cent for their Commissions which the other Deductions commonly Amount to Twenty or Twenty five p Cent and the Lawyers are frequently Obliged to go to Law with the Sherrifs for their own Tobacco especially when tis of any Value and Very Often by the Insolvency of them (the Sherrifs) and their Sureties Either Loose it or are Obliged to make disadvantageous Compositions after the Loss of much time and a good Market and after having been at a Very great Expencc, to Avoid which Inconveniencys the Lawyers have frequently sold their Tobacco to their Clyents sometimes for Current price and often for Less, but by this Late Act of Assembly they (the Lawyers) are Prohibited to take more than Ten Shillings Current Mony which is but 7<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> Sterling p Cent of their Clyents tho some of them wou'd much rather pay the Market price if twice that Sum than Tobacco in Specie which people Can't do at some Seasons of the year without great Inconvenience Especially when their own Tobacco is disposed of and they are Obliged to buy of Others at a disadvantage,

Then the Lawyer is reduced to the unhappy necessity of puting his p. 193 Clyent to Inconvenience thereby disobliging him & loose his business or give up a part of his right by selling at any under rate, People are Encouraged to make or deal in any sort of Commodity that is sometimes of Very Little Value in Expectation of its Advanceing & of their receiveing the full benefit of that Advance which tis presumed every one has an undoubted Right to as well as to dispose of every thing that he has any Property in to his best Advantage. But this Act of Assembly tho' it allows a person [that] Practices the Law a Certain quantity of Tobacco for his fees yet it restrains him from selling that Tobacco for above such a price which restraint will appear to be the more unequal & unjust when it is Considered (that as the fact really is) Tobacco is a Very Precarious Commodity and Sometimes not worth four shillings p Cent in many parts of the