

M^r Matthews from the Committee of Aggreivances and Courts of Justice delivers M^r Speaker following Report. L. H. J.
Lib. No. 45

By the Committee of Aggreivances and Courts of Justice
May 15th 1738.

Your Committee having received information that the Honourable Henry Hooper and Stephen Knight Esq^{rs} two of his Lordships Justices of the Provincial Court being appointed to ride the Circuit on the Eastern Shore, at the Court of Assize held for Talbot County, at the said County Court House in April last past being and judiciously Sitting, did receive a presentment of their Grand Jury of inquest against several of the Justices of the same County Court, for that They the said County Justices had refused to issue Subpena's at the request of the Grand inquest at the Court held for the said County in the month of March last past (as will more plainly appear by the Presentment herewith brought into this Honourable House) which Presentment the said Henry Hooper and Stephen Knight did not only quash, but on an Application of the then grand inquest for subpoenaing three or four Witnesses by whose Evidence they the said Jurors might inquire into the truth of certain Offences (said to be committed in that County) against the good rule and Government of this Province, One whereof being supened and sworn did refuse to send to said inquest, and others to summon, telling the said Jurors they must advize with his Lordships Prosecutor and inform him of the facts and Persons of which and against whom their Inquiries were levelled, Otherwise They the said Jurors should have no Evidence, that the then Jury conceiving such an Information would be a Manifest breach of their Oath, did inform the said Justices of Assize that then They could proceed no farther, notwithstanding which the aforesaid Justices did persist in their refusal. All which practices your Committee conceive to be not only an Omission of the duty of their Office, but an invasion of the Rights and Liberties of his Majesty's Liege Subjects of this Province and particularly on that part the Trial by Juries, and therefore submit them to the Consideration of this Honourable House.

Signed p Order of the Committee Tho : Lynn Cl.

We the Grand Jurors for Talbot County upon Our Oaths do present Thomas Bozman, Rizdon Bozman, John Leeds, Anthony Richardson and John Robins, they being the Major part of the Justices of the County Court then Sitting, for that They at the Court held for Talbot County aforesaid March last past then and there judic^{ly} sitting as Members of the same Court and Application being made to them to issue Summonses for witnesses by the then Grand Jury who were on Enquiries pursuant to their Oaths and Charge, the aforesaid Justices did refuse to issue such summons's to the great