

Your Committee most humbly conceive that the taking such Bonds for Fees before the same become due is Extortion, Against law, and that such have been a very great Aggrievance and Oppression to his Majestys Liege and dutiful Subjects in this province, but they humbly submit the same to the consideration of your Honourable House

L. H. J.
Lib. No. 45

Signed ꝑ order of the Committee S Bordley Ct.

the House concurs therewith.

M^r Mathews from the Committee of Aggrievances delivers M^r Speaker the following Report

By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice
May 30th 1739

It appears to your Committee upon Examination of Thomas Bullen late Clerk of Talbot County by the Examination and papers hereunto annexed, that there is a Strong Presumption of there having been great Abuses committed in relation to the Huxtering Sale and purchasing the Office of Clerk of the said County, and particularly by the present Clerk John Leeds

Your Committee most humbly conceive that the sale of such Clerkship relating to Courts of Justice, is against Law and productive of many Evils to his Majestys dutiful Subjects but tis humbly submitted to your Honourable House

Signed ꝑ Order of the Committee S. Bordley Ct.

The Examination of Thomas Bullen

p. 865

Thomas Bullen of Talbot County being examined before your Committee declares that some time in the Year 1729 or thereabouts, he had finished an Apprentiship or Clerkship with M^r Tench Francis of the said county Gent. who was at that Time Clerk of the said County, during which Time he wrote for the said Francis as Clerk of the said County and as an Attorney likewise And that for and during the space of three or four years next after his said Clerkship or Apprenticeship Expired he the said Thomas Bullen was out of Business suitable to him, and in the year 1734 Entred into a Verbal Contract with the said Tench Francis then also Clerk of the said County but the said contract was not entered into and executed in Writing between Richard Francis late of Ann Arundell County Esq^r Brother to the said Tench, and the said Thomas Bullen and after the Execution of which Articles as aforesaid the said Rich^d Francis assigned the said contract over unto the said Tench Francis by a Writing, A Copy whereof with A Copy of the said Articles he the said Thomas Bullen delivered to your Committee and are hereunto annexed and under which Articles a Commission was Granted to the said Thomas Bullen to be clerk of the said county, and which