

By the Committee appointed by the Honourable the Lower House of Assembly to enquire into the State and Condition of the Public Goal in the City of Annapolis; June 11<sup>th</sup> 1747

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 46

Your Committee having viewed and inspected the State of the said Goal, do find the front and back Doors thereof are single and want Locks; that the frames are rotten, which occasion a Breach in the wall. We also find the floors want repairing; and that the safety of the prison, which we conceive ought to consist of a strong Cieling, appears to us to have been insufficient at the first Building, and so impair'd since, that renders it now of no Service for the Security thereof. We likewise find, that the partition walls not being Carried up to each floor, hath made it easy for the prisoners to pass from one Room to another, that the Joists are weakened by great part of them being cut away by the prisoners, for firewood, as your Committee are informed; which ought to have been Cieled at first (as we imagine) and would have prevented the Damage; that there are no shutters to any of the windows, nor Cieling to the Dormants; by which we conceive the prisoners have not only an opportunity of being furnished with Tools, to make their escape, but likewise has occasioned the Damage that is done to the Goal; that the pump and well frame, in the prison yard, are quite rotten and useless; and the said yard is kept so Dirty, that it is nauseous and unwholesom to the prisoners; and by reason of the Iron Bars in the Chimneys, which were put to prevent the prisoners from escaping that way, and for want of Ladders, the Chimneys cannot be swept above the Grates; so that by the foulness thereof they have frequently taken fire and blazed out, as your Committee are informed, to the great Danger of the said Goal, and all the Buildings adjacent, that there is a Quantity of Indian Corn kept in the Upper Room of the prison, which occasions a great many Rats, and deprives the prisoners of the benefit of the said Room, which we apprehend to be the Cleanest and best in the prison. And we further take Leave to represent, That the Complaint of Francis Woolf, one of the prisoners in the said Goal, is proved by some witnesses, and contradicted by others, on due Examination; but upon the whole, we believe it to be the effect of Drink; All which is most humbly Submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

Signed per Order W<sup>m</sup> Wilkins, Clerk

The House adjourns 'til To morrow Morning 9 of the Clock.

p. 703

Friday Morning, June 12. 1747

June 12

The House met according to adjournment &c.

On Consideration of the Report from the Committee appointed to enquire into the State and Condition of the Public and County Goal &c. The House Concurs therewith.