

Col. Hooper, from the Committee of the whole House, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report:

L. H. J.
Liber No. 46
June 10

By a Committee of the whole House, June 10, 1749.

That at a Committee of the whole House, the said Committee had taken into Consideration the Petition of sundry the Inhabitants of St. Mary's County, complaining of an undue Election and Return for the said County; and Resolved, That the late Election had for St. Mary's County was not a fair and free Election for the said County, and therefore is wholly null and void; and that Messieurs Zachariah Bond, Philip Key, Abraham Barnes, and James Mills, are not duly elected Delegates for the said County.

Resolved, That Robert Chesley, Sheriff of St. Mary's County, did not, before the late Election of Delegates for the said County to serve in this present General Assembly, give to the Freeholders and other Voters of the said County, Notice of the Time of such Election, according to the Directions of the Act of Assembly of this Province entituled, An Act directing the Manner of Electing and Summoning Delegates and Representatives, to serve in succeeding Assemblies; and for ascertaining the Expences of the Counsellors, Delegates of Assembly, and the Commissioners of the Provincial and County Courts of this Province; and did behave with great Partiality, by endeavouring to deter and hinder, by Threats and Menaces, some of the Freeholders and other Voters of the said County from their Freedom of Voting; and thereby, and also by offering a Reward to another Person, did induce him, and terrify them, into giving their Votes for the four Candidates by him the said Sheriff afterwards returned for the said County, as Delegates to this present General Assembly. And directed the Chairman to report the same to the House.

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker do acquaint Mr. Bond, Mr. Key, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Mills, that they are dismissed from any further Attendance on this House. p. 853

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Secretary of this Province, to make out forthwith a Writ of Election directed to the Sheriff of St. Mary's County, to elect four Members to serve in this present General Assembly, in the Room of Messieurs Zachariah Bond, Philip Key, Abraham Barnes, and James Mills.

Resolved, That it is an high Infringement of, and a dangerous Attack upon, the Liberties and Privileges of the Freemen of this Province, and tends to subvert the Freedom of Elections of Delegates to serve in Assembly, for any Person who, in the Time of a General Assembly of this Province, doth, or hereafter shall, sit as a Member of an Upper House of Assembly, any way to interest, intermeddle, or concern himself in the Election of Delegates to serve