

L. H. J.
Liber No. 47
June 6

In Pursuance of an Order of your Honourable House, your Committee sent to the Register in Chancery, the Clerks of the Secretary's, Commissary's, and Land Offices, to know whether they had taken the Oath prescribed by an Act entituled, A Supplementary Act to the Act entituled, An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees; who delivered their separate Answers as follow; viz.

The Register in Chancery answered, That he had taken the said Oath before George Steuart, Esq; one of the Provincial Magistrates, within the Time limited by the said Law.

The Clerk of the Provincial Office gave for Answer, That he apprehended the said Oath to be so strict, as to hinder him from taking any Fee or Reward, even from his Principal; and therefore had not taken the Oath.

The Register in the Commissary's Office gave for Answer, That by the Oath prescribed by Law for him to take, he conceived he should be debarred from the usual and customary Allowances for making out the Deputy Commissaries Commissions, and Copy of their Instructions, for which the Commissary charges no Fees; and for preparing Letters of Administration, or Testamentary, where the Administrations are granted by the Commissary General, for which he receives fifteen Shillings; the Deputy Commissaries receiving one hundred and fifty Pounds of Tobacco for the same Services; which had been the usual Perquisites taken by all the former Registers of that Office.

George Gardiner, an Under Writer in the Commissary's Office, says for Answer, That he has been but a little Time in the Office, p. 164 was unacquainted with the Law, nor yet understands it perfectly; therefore cannot safely take the said Oath.

The Clerk of the Land Office gives for Answer, That it had been an usual Perquisite in that Office to have ten Shillings for every Petition formed and drawn by such Clerk from the Persons applying to the Office, where they could not get it done by any other, or do it themselves; and that he conceived if he was to take the said Oath, he could not take the said Perquisite or Reward.

Thomas Harwood, a Writer in the said Office, says, That he applied to Mr Stephen Bordley, as a Lawyer, for his Opinion; who gave it him, that if he took that Oath, he could not receive his Salary for acting in the said Office from his Principal, or charge the Fees arising for the Business of the Office.

Robert Tyler, a Writer in the same Office, says, That he doubted whether he could charge the Fees arising due to his Principal for the Business of the Office, if he had taken the said Oath; and for that Reason refrained it.