

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
March 7

Mr. John Rawlings, one of the Justices of Frederick County, having attended on the Summons of this House, issued on the first of March Instant, on a Report from the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice, brought into the House: Ordered, That Mr. Rawlings be called to the Bar; who appeared, and being heard in his Defence, and after the Examination on Oath of several Witnesses, to the Facts contained in the said Report, in his Presence, he was ordered to withdraw.

The House referred the further Consideration on the said Report, till the morrow Morning.

The House adjourns till the Morning at 9 of the Clock.

March 8 Saturday Morning, 8th March, 1755.

The House met according to Adjournment, &c. All appeared as Yesterday, except Mr. Bordley.

Mr. Hammond appeared in the House.

The House took into further Consideration the Report from the Committee of Grievances, &c. relating to Mr. Rawlings, and on mature Deliberation thereon, Resolved, That Mr. John Rawlings has committed a manifest Error, in the Execution of his Office; and Ordered, That Mr. Rawlings be again called to the Bar, and that he be acquainted from the Chair, with the Sense this House sustains of his Conduct, and that it be recommended to him, to behave with more Circumspection in his Station for the future.

Mr. Rawlings was called to the Bar, and Mr. Speaker gave him the following Charge, viz.^t

p. 41 Mr. Rawlings,

From the Evidence that has been given in Support of the Facts contain'd in the Charge against you, it is the Opinion of this House, that you have committed a manifest Error, in the Execution of your Office, having govern'd yourself in the whole Affair, more by your Passions, than by your Understanding, which surely ought to have been the Measure of your Acting.

It is therefore recommended to you as a Rule for your future Conduct, in all judicial Proceedings, to direct yourself by the Right Rule of Law, and go no more by the crooked Cord of Opinion.

There are some Fees accrued by Means of this Enquiry, which the House expects you will pay, in doing which you are discharged from any further Attendance.

Ordered, That Major Hall, Mr. Murdock, and Mr. Stoddert, do Tax the Fees due to the Officers of this House, and others, from Mr. Rawlings, and Report the same to the House.