

Ordered, That M.<sup>r</sup> Fielder Gantt, H. Hollyday, and J. Hall, Esq.<sup>rs</sup> and Capt. J. Chapline, do prepare and bring in a Bill accordingly.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 52  
Nov. 15

William Murdock, Esq<sup>o</sup> brings in, and delivers to M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker, the following Report, Viz.<sup>t</sup>

By the Committee appointed by the Honourable House, to enquire and report to the House by what Law or Custom the Lord Proprietary of this Province receives the Fines, Forfeitures, and Amerciaments arising in the Courts of Justice; and also the Twelve Pence per Hogshead on all Tobaccoes exported out of this Province; the Annual Amount of such fines, forfeitures, Amerciaments, and Twelve Pence per Hogshead, for the last seven Years, to what Uses and Purposes the same have been applied; with their Opinion as to the Justice of such Receipt and Application; and that the said Committee have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Things, necessary to perfect such Enquiry and Report

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Your Committee, in Pursuance of the Directions of the Honourable House, do find, that King Charles the First, by Charter, dated in the 8.<sup>th</sup> Year of his Reign, Annoque Domini 1633, amongst other Things, Granted to Cæcilius Calvert, first Lord Proprietary of the Province of Maryland, "All and singular such, and as ample Rights, Jurisdictions, Privileges, Prerogatives, Royalties, Liberties, Immunities and Royal Rights, and Temporal Franchises, whatsoever, as well by Sea as by Land, within the Regions, Islands, Islets, and Limits aforesaid, to be had, exercised, used, and enjoyed, as any Bishop of Durham, within the Bishoprick or County Palatine of Durham, in our Kingdom of England, ever heretofore hath, had, held, used, or enjoyed, or of Right could or ought to have, hold, use, or enjoy." Under this Charter the Lord Proprietary in the Infancy of this Province, took the Fines and Forfeitures, arising at the Common Law, as Supreme Magistrate; and, having in his Hands all the executive Powers of Government, his Successors have continued, in like Manner, to receive them, either by themselves or their Governors here, down to the Present Time, without any Interruption that we know of, but only during that Period in which the Government was in the Hands of the Crown, when the Fines and Forfeitures were received by Officers under the Crown, and not collected by the Agent of Lord Baltimore as Part of his private Fortune and Estate, the forfeitures appropriated by particular Acts of Assembly to the Support of Government, and given to the Lord Proprietary from Time to Time for that Purpose, have likewise been received in Virtue of those Acts: To what Uses the said Fines and Forfeitures arising at the Common Law, or under particular Acts of Assembly, have for some Years past been applied, your Committee are not informed, but have Reason to think they have been disposed of at the Pleasure of the Lord Proprietary for the Time being, and not appropriated to any public Use whatever.