

in favor of Defendants and others: and I conceive that Legislators ought not, in consequence of a particular Enormity, to neglect the uniform Dispensation of Justice

U. H. J.  
Liber No. 36  
June 18

4.<sup>thly</sup> Because the County Courts are, in general, already so crowded with common Pleas, Criminal Suits, Summary Complaints, Petitions and a variety of Matters respecting the Government and Common Justice of the respective Counties, that their Business is not done 'till after many Adjournments and Sittings, to the grievous Inconvenience of Plaintiffs, as well as of Defendants and Witnesses and Jurymen, and to the great expence and vexation of the Parties and of the Witnesses and Jurymen; and not always to the Satisfaction of the Justices of the County Courts themselves; who are often perplexed with a Multiplicity and variety of Business.

5.<sup>thly</sup> Because the Business of Courts can no where be executed but with some Inconvenience: and where this falls heavier on one Suitor than the other, no principle will justify the Defendant profiting of his own Wrong, and throwing the Inconvenience on the person he has injured, sheltering himself under this Bill from the Hand of impartial Justice, as often as his dishonesty or Idleness force plaintiffs to sue. But I presume that generally the Inconvenience of attending the Provincial Court, in the Center of all the Business of the Province, is equal Between Plaintiffs and Defendants; and if it was not quite so yet I conceive it cannot be a grievous Inconvenience, but through a want of vigor and attention in the Members of the Court to forward the Business of it. Witnesses are necessary. Dealers from all parts of the Province negotiate much Mercantile Business in the City, and at Baltimore and other Towns. If the Merchants of these Towns are obliged to sue in the distant Counties, it would be a more Grievous Inconvenience for their Clerks or other Witnesses to go, it may be to the Extremities of the Country, to attend the County Courts than to meet half way at Annapolis; where Merchants and others from all parts meet, and settle other concerns, as well as their Law Suits. Jurymen are also necessary in all Common Law Courts. To the Provincial Court come, from each County, two Grand jurymen, and three Petty jurymen. I cannot think that the attendance on such necessary Business by only five Men from each County twice a Year, altho somewhat Inconvenient to them, can be grievously Inconvenient when they are paid for their Attendance and Itinerant Charges. At the County Courts, as it appears to me, the Attendance and loss of time is greater: for instead of only Seventy Jurymen in the whole Province attending the Provincial Court, as Jurymen twice a Year, there Attend four hundred Jurymen in the County Courts three Times a Year, and moreover at their many Adjournments, then the vast addition of Jurisdiction to these County Courts Proposed by this Bill will, I

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