

Some where about the Lower End of the Said County wth orders to them to pay the Severall Sumes to this Defend^t w^{ch} for any thing this Defend^t remembers might amount to the Summe in the Comp^{ts} bill mentioned but that this Defend^t kept Such list by him as the Comp^{ts} in his bill Sets forth or how long [387] this Defend^t kept it he cannot Remember but this Defend^t well Remembers that he procured a Friend to Act for him as Receiver in those parts wth instructions to him Either to Receive Tob^o where the Said Gresham Should order it if Ready or if not to take the obligations of such as were responsible persons or money or Bills of Exch^a at the Reasonable Value thereof; but this Defend^t being Informed that Sundry of the Said Gresham's p^rtended Debtors disowned the greatest part of their Debts either for that they being of the people Called Quakers owed little but on Acc^t of the forty per Poll ¹ allowed the Clergy w^{ch} they Refused to pay as for Scruples of Conscience or for want of Settling Acc^{ts} or Some like Allegations w^{ch} this Defend^t does not particularly Remember he forbore intermeddling wth the Collection of Said Gresham's Debt not thinking it Safe nor himself obliged to Settle the Said Gresham's Acc^{ts} wth his Debtors nor to take any such Orders as pay nor to goe about the County to get in the Said Gresham's Debts for him w^{ch} he is allowed Sallary for doing himself but Expected the Said Gresham Should gett the Tob^o he owed this Defend^t Ready and then that he wou'd give him notice to Send to Receive it w^{ch} to this Defend^{ts} Remembrance he never did but when this Def^t ordered it to be Recd And this Def^t absolutely denies that any of those Debtors ever offered to pay this Def^t any Tob^o that he Refused; that the Comp^{ts} has frequently urged this Def^t in a haughty Manner to goe and Receive his Tob^o but when this Defend^t enquired where he might get it he never to his knowledge was favoured wth a Result especially in Tob^o time but what he made Use of that (the Cheif Reason why this Def^t did not Receive the Tob^o in Said Greshams hands was because he Could not get it; that this Defend^t acknowledge he was not Soe pressing on the Complainant at the fag end of a Crop when perhaps the Comp^{ts} had obliged himself [388] and better Friends wth the Choice and earliest Tobacco as he was wont to be in the proper Seasons when this Defend^t Cou'd never See an inclination in the Said Gresham to pay him but this Defendant takes it if this Def^{ts} Suffering his Tob^o to lye in the Comp^{ts} hands had been soe very burthen Some as in his bill he Seems to insinuate or that the tenders he pretends to have made had been in proper Season he might by the Act of Assembly for Relief of Debtors and ascertaining the manner of Tenders in Tob^o have extricated himself thereout by having his Tob^o Marked for this Defendant According to that Law and thereby laying it at this Def^{ts} resque That this (as this Defend^t is humbly of opinion) wou'd have Sufficiently defended him from the Charge of Interest he soe grievously Complains of wth out which this Def^t takes it he has a good right thereto

¹ The "forty per poll" was for the support of the Established Church. See Act of 1692, ch. 2; Act of 1715, ch. 46, § 1.