

To the Honourable the Lower House of Assembly; the humble Petition of John Paca, Walter Tolly, William Smith, and John Matthews, of Baltimore County, Gentlemen,

SHewETH,

THAT your Petitioners, together with several other Gentlemen, stood Candidates at the last General Election of Burgesses, to serve in your Honourable House as Representatives of Baltimore County: That the Sheriff of Baltimore County, on Receipt of the Writs of Election for the said County, on the twenty-ninth Day of October last, called a Court, to cause Proclamation to be made, to give Notice to the Freeholders of the said County of the Time of the said Election; and at the said Court, the Election was appointed by the Sheriff to be on the Eighth Day of November then next following.

And your Petitioners further shew, That William Gowans, one of the Gentlemen who stood a Candidate at the said then ensuing Election, in Order to procure himself, and other Gentlemen who promoted his Interest in the said Election, chosen, after the Proclamation made by the Sheriff to give Notice of the said Election, and some Days before the Time appointed for the said Election, gave, or caused to be given, great Quantities of Rum, Punch, and other strong Liquors, to the People in several Parts of the said County, in Order to secure the Votes of the said People, for himself and his Friends, at the said Election; and when the said People were warmed and intoxicated with strong Liquors, engaged their Promises to vote for him the said Gowans, and his Friends at the said Election.

And your Petitioners further shew, That the said William Gowans, the better to hold the People to their Promises, procured by the Liquor given them as aforesaid, on the Day of the Election procured great Quantities of Rum and Punch, and other strong Liquors to be lodged in the Way of the People to the said Election, and gave the same to the People; and at the Court House, before the Election, and at the taking the Poll, procured so much strong Liquor to be given to the People, that many of them were made drunk, and not capable of giving the Votes with Prudence and Discretion, or agreeably to what they would have done had they been sober.

And your Petitioners further shew, That the said Sheriff, at the Time of taking the Poll at the Election, finding the People very obdurate and violent, was obliged several Times to adjourn the Poll, which greatly delayed the Election; and after the said several Adjournments, the said Sheriff caused the Poll to be opened again, and then shut the Court House Doors, and caused the same to be shut near two Hours, and thereby kept out several of your Petitioners and their Friends; by Means whereof, several of your Petitioners Friends were prevented from going to vote, and your Petitioners were prevented from objecting to the Votes of several unqualified Voters, who polled at the said Election against your Petitioners.

And your Petitioners further shew, That there was only one Clerk who kept the Polls at the said Election, which said Clerk was not sworn, as by Law he ought to have been; and your Petitioners have the greater Reason to object against the said Election, for want of the said Clerk's being sworn, as several Persons, who have declared since that they voted for your Petitioners, or some of them, are set down upon the Poll to other Candidates, and not to your Petitioners.

And your Petitioners further shew, That the said Election being greatly delayed, by Means of the several Adjournments, and the Violence of the People, who were mostly drunk,

and very clamorous; your Petitioners Friends, who were sober, and unwilling to be delayed in Town, although a great Number of Drunken People in a wet cold Night, as was the Night of the Election, desired your Petitioners to have the Poll adjourned till the next Day; upon which, your Petitioners applied to the Sheriff, to have the Poll adjourned; and the Sheriff declared to your Petitioners that the Election would not be ended that Night and that he should adjourn the Poll till the next Day; on which Promise of the Sheriff, your Petitioners and their Friends relying, your Petitioners Friends, to the Number of One Hundred and upwards, went out of Town, with an Intention to return and give their Votes the next Morning; and did actually the next Day return, in Order to give their Votes for your Petitioners; but the said Sheriff, contrary to his Promise to your Petitioners and their Friends, to continue the Poll 'til the next Day, closed the said Poll at Ten of the Clock the same Night, when half the Free Voters of the said County had not polled; and declared he said William Gowans, Thomas Franklin, Lloyd Buchanan, and Charles Ridgely, Gentlemen, duly Elected Burgesses for the said County; and, as your Petitioners conceive, very illegally.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honours will be pleased to take the Premises under your Consideration, and that your Petitioners may be allowed Summons for their Witnesses, to make the several Facts, before set forth, appear; and that the said Election may be declared void, and that a new Election may be ordered for the said County; or that such other Relief may be given in the Premises, as to your Honours seem meet. And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

JOHN PACA,  
WALTER TOLLY,  
WM. SMITH,  
JOHN MATTHEWS.

Dec. 14, 1751.  
A true Copy from the Original Petition.  
Test. M. MACNEARA, Cl. Lo. Ho.

WHEREAS, I am the Person who, at the Intigation and Request of the Candidates, at the Election mentioned in the above Petition, was appointed to take the Polls, without being sworn; I think it would be doing great Injustice to the Sheriff of this County, as well as myself and Family, was I not to vindicate his and my own Character in as public a Manner as it has been attacked; the Small Pox having prevented me from doing it, as an Evidence, before the Honourable the Lower House of Assembly, when the above Petition was heard.

In Order to which, I shall briefly observe, that where one Man endeavours to prove another a Scoundrel, he ought to be extremely careful, that a Relation of any Part of his own Conduct will not make up a proper Definition for the Word Scoundrel. Whether the Gentleman, here particularly pointed at, has observed this necessary Caution, I shall leave to the impartial World to judge, after having related a Fact, as it was communicated to me by a Gentleman who was very lately first named in the Commission of the Peace for this County; viz. That at an Election of Delegates held some Years ago in this County, whereat Mr. Roger Matthews and Mr. Charles Ridgely, with other Gentlemen, stood Candidates, Mr. Ridgely had ten or twelve Votes more than Mr. Matthews; but that Mr. John Paca (who was concerned in taking or adding up the Polls), in Combination with some others, by misplacing, or miscasting up the Votes (or perhaps by not rightly understanding the Rule of Addition), so ordered it, that Mr. Matthews was declared duly elected.

N. RUXTON GAY.

The DEPOSITION of Nicholas Ruxton Gay, of Baltimore County, aged upwards of 30 Years; who being sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, declares as follows; viz.

THAT at the Election mentioned in the foregoing Petition, he honestly and truly, to the best of his Knowledge entered the Votes to each respective Can-

did not as the Voters gave them: That he has done the same at every Election he has served as Clerk at, for this 8 or 9 Years past, and desists all Town, base, or dishonest Actions, any malicious Insinuations to the contrary notwithstanding.

THAT the People never appeared so Sober at any Election that this Deponent remembers, there not being one Voter (that Polled) appearing Intoxicated: nor did he this Deponent either see, or hear of any one Fight or Quarrel in Town, before, or during the Election.

THAT the Clamour mentioned in the above Petition, was nothing more than the eager Desire of so great a Number of People to get at the Sheriff and Clerk, to Vote; and the joyful Acclamations of the Majority of the People, arising (as he this Deponent imagines) from the pleasing Prospect of sending Gentlemen of Capacity and Fortune, from that Election, to represent them.

THAT the Candidates (as well those Petitioners as others) Agreed to have the Court-house cleared, and the Doors shut, and to sit in the Voters by small Numbers at a Time, for the quicker Dispatch of Business, and to prevent Confusion in taking the Votes.

THAT the said Candidates (as well those Petitioners as others) did agree, in the Height of the Election, to retire to a Public House, and there to entertain, whilst the Election should be carried on in Presence of some Friend or Friends to each Party: That the said Candidates retired accordingly, and were absent some Time; and that this Expedient was proposed by the Sheriff, and agreed to, to prevent some particular Candidates (opposite to the Petitioners or their Interests) from influencing the People by their Presence or Behaviour.

THAT the Time the Court House Door continued shut could not exceed three Quarters of an Hour, if so much; and that during the Time said Door continued so shut, the Officers or People thereat made no Distinction (as this Deponent saw) in admitting in or out any particular Candidate, or Person, whatsoever; nor did the Sheriff nor himself make any, in taking the Votes for one Candidate sooner than another.

THAT he this Deponent was never out of the Sheriff's Company or Hearing, from the first Beginning of said Election 'til it ended; but never heard said Sheriff tell the Petitioners, or any other Person, that said Election should be continued 'til next Day, but, on the contrary, heard him tell several People, it should if possible be ended that Night: Except when the Crowding of the People prevented this Deponent from writing down the Votes; at which Times said Sheriff would tell them, if they would not give him Room to go on with his Business, he would adjourn the Court 'til next Day, or keep them there a Fortnight, or Words to that Effect. And that every Election held in Baltimore County for these eight or nine Years past, or more, has been begun and ended in the same Day.

THAT he this Deponent is sure several People went out of Town the Evening of the Election without voting, but verily believes the whole Number of those who so went out, could not amount to any thing like half the Number set forth in the Petition; and that those People lived in different Parts of the County, and as likely to vote for the other Candidates as the Petitioners.

THAT this Deponent continued in Town all the next Day after said Election, and saw the People who came into Town that Day, and who had not polled over Night; that he talked to many of those People, and is positive and very sure their Number could not exceed twenty at most: And that the Sheriff in all Respects, during the whole Election, proceeded (in this Deponent's Judgment) with the utmost Candour and Impartiality.

Sworn to this 10th Day of February, 1752, before us the Subscribers, two of his Lordship's Justices of the Peace for Baltimore County; as Witness our Hands,

W. YOUNG.  
J. RIDGELY.

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M A

R I P E N

I N the Ni this Mor West, w to the h high, th adjacent Countr Morning, till 9 that we frequen be torn from th In the succedi Water likewise again, but not saw on every Si set, some of w Land, and wer Damage done c considerable, an have been wrec Cologne, OOb advise, that the a little Town a Fire, whereby r reduced to Ashe Lyons, Sept. 3 are informed, th ated between th near thirty Leag Fire, to the ver ners thereof, b made Wood ve Countries: How pened no one co that it was don People. Paris, Sept. 3 en, with Corn several others t same Port; and expected from Commodities. Vienna, OOb been taken to Foot in Bohemi be always ready that of Russia. Orders to the C quartered on the on the Dominio the Troops und form a Line, in still rages prett Provinces, being Paris, OOb advise, that the tricht, and tore the Bull of the States having fo Processions, had the Tower of S Prohibition. It of Liege is reso last Affair, and pose to the Hag Berlin, OOb has brought Ad pened a few Day est Part of that together with th some other Build Accounts, there all agree, that n lamity, though d est Distress, few Effects. Leghorn, Sept. Merchants estab after a great Bu Morocco, obtain bassador, desir take off all the said Merchants,