

justly or erroneously charged, and if justly, to write to the Sheriff to compel Payment, if erroneously, not to compel it.

And this Deponent also saith, That at the Beginning of last *October* Session, this Deponent was instructed by the Secretary, to give any Members of the Lower House, who should apply for the same, all the Information this Deponent was able, of the Proceedings in the Secretary's Office, which this Deponent accordingly did, in every Respect, where desired. And this Deponent saith, that he never, to the best of his Memory and Belief, heard, before the last Session of Assembly, any Complaint, that any Fees charged in the Secretary's Office were illegally or improperly charged, except in Two Instances, wherein *Mr. Thomas Ringgold*, about a Year or Two ago, objected to the Charge of short Copy Judgment, on issuing an Execution, and also for a Charge of Three Pounds of Tobacco, for entering a Release (on a Bond) of the Penalty, on Payment of Principal, Interest, and Cost.

Sworn before

PHILIP THOMAS LEE.

THE Hon. Lower House of Assembly, having caused some Resolves, entered into last Session, to be published in the GAZETTE, purporting, that certain Fees charged by the Commissary-General, on Administrations granted by his Deputies, as also a Number of Fees charged by the Commissary-General for Orders, &c. "are an Abuse of the old Regulation of Fees, illegal and oppressive." I think it indispensably incumbent on me, as Register of the Commissary's Office, whose Duty it is to charge all Fees accruing due in that Office, in a publick Manner to vindicate my Conduct in that Particular, as far as I myself am personally concerned; and, at the same Time, to refute, in the most convincing Manner, a Report, as malicious as it is uncharitable, lately propagated by some ill designing Person (whose Virulence doth not even spare the Ashes of the Dead) of having, at the Instigation of *Charles Goldsborough*, Esq; late Commissary-General, charged additional Fees not warranted by Law.

"*I Elis Vallette*, do therefore in the Presence of Almighty God, declare, that the above-mentioned Fees, as charged by me, are no Innovations; but that they have, as far back as can be traced by the remotest Fee-Books in the Office, always been charged uniformly, in the same Manner, and for the self same Services, as they stand charged at this present Time, except the Quantum for every such Service, which, until the Year 1747, was nearly double from what it was by the late Law, as can be evinced by the Fee-Books in the Office.

That neither the late *Charles Goldsborough*, Esq; nor *Walter Dulany*, Esq; the present Commissary-General, have, at any Time, directed me, or in any Manner intimated their Desire to charge additional Fees not warranted by Law.

That ever since the Year 1766, the charging of the Fees hath invariably been my Province, without any the least interfering of the Commissary-General.

That my Conduct therein hath always been guided, to the best of my Skill and Judgment, by the several Acts of Assembly enacted for that Purpose. And,

That more especially, with regard to the Charge of the Commissary-General, on Administrations granted by the Deputy-Commissaries, I never had, 'til very lately, the least Reason to believe that the Legality of that Charge ever could, or would be questioned.

Sworn to the Truth of the above, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 1770, before ROBT. COUDEN.

BY the Committee appointed to inspect the publick Offices, and to enquire from the several Officers, their Deputies, Registers, or Clerks, into the annual Amount of the Fees that have accrued due to the said Officers of this Province for Seven Years last past.

In Obedience to the Order of the Honourable House, your Committee have inquired into the Amount of Fees in several of the Offices, and do report as follows: SECRETARY'S FEES in the Provincial Court.

	£	Tob.
1763	-	180,496
1764	-	229,208
1765	-	212,141
1766	-	209,334
1767	-	230,929
1768	-	255,763½
1769	-	244,990

SECRETARY'S FEES in the Chancery Court.

	£	Tob.
1763	-	45,237
1764	-	47,717
1765	-	27,175

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by ANNE CATHARINE GREEN, at the PRINTING-OFFICE: Where all Persons may be supplied with this GAZETTE, at 12s. 6d. a Year; ADVERTISEMENTS, in Proportion to their Number of Lines.—At same Place may be had, ready Printed, most kinds of BLANKS, viz. COMMON and BAIL BONDS; TESTAMENTARY LETTERS of several Sorts, with their proper BONDS annexed; BILLS of EXCHANGE; SHIPPING-BILLS, &c. &c. All Manner of PRINTING-WORK performed in the neatest and most expeditious Manner, on applying as above.

	£	Tob.
1766	-	34,685
1767	-	38,238
1768	-	40,136
1769	-	42,098½

Two of your Committee applied to the Examiner, for the Account of his Fees for Seven Years last past, who answered, in general, that he had not made any Lists of Fees but what were sent to the Sheriffs annually, and could only know the Amount by having Recourse to their Accounts and Returns, and at present was unable to do it.

Your Committee applied also to the Register of the Commissary's Office, and were informed, by Letter from him, that he was so unwell as to be incapable of leaving his Bed; that he was ready to give all the Information in his Power; that to the best of his Remembrance the Fees in 1763, and 1764, amounted to about 224,000, in 1765, and the following Years down to 1769, to about 230,000, and in 1769, by Reason of Papers not coming timely to Hand to charge in the preceding Year's Fees, they amounted to about 280,000.

Your Committee afterwards understanding *Mr. Vallette* was better, went to his Office again, and obtained a Sight of his Fee Books, many of which we found not added up or the Fees listed, and in some Years, where the Amount was cast up, the same was marked by Letters, the Solution of which your Committee not being acquainted with, could come at no Certainty: These Fee Books they could best understand they did examine, particularly in 1768, and found the total Amount 236,699, and in 1769, the total Amount was 268,149.

The Amount of Fees furnished by the Clerk of the Land-Office was as follows:

	£	Tob.
1763	-	526,525
1764	-	472,592
1765	-	484,488
1766	-	332,952
1767	-	311,263
1768	-	340,514
1769	-	382,600½

All which is submitted to the Consideration of the Honourable House. Signed per Order, JOHN JOHNSON, Clk. Com. OZ. 3, 1770.

SECOND REPORT.

BY the Committee appointed to inspect the publick Offices, and to inquire from the several Officers, their Deputies, Registers, or Clerks, into the annual Amount of the Fees that have accrued due to the said Offices of this Province for Seven Years last past.

Since giving in our former Report relative to the Examiner-General, and the other Offices, your Committee have received, from the Clerk of the Council and Examiner-General, an Estimate of the Amount of his Fees in both those Departments for the Years 1767, 1768, and 1769, which are as followeth, viz.

CLERK of the COUNCIL.

	£	Tob.
1767	-	7281
1768	-	8603
1769	-	7744½

EXAMINER-GENERAL.

	£	Tob.
1767	-	52,182
1768	-	60,816
1769	-	63,109

All which is submitted to the Consideration of the Honourable House. Signed per Order, JOHN JOHNSON, Clk. Com. OZ. 12, 1770.

FRIDAY, November 3, 1770.

On Motion, ORDERED, That the Report of the Committee appointed to inspect the publick Offices, and to inquire from the several Officers, their Deputies, Registers, or Clerks, into the annual Amount of the Fees that have accrued due to the said Officers of this Province for Seven Years last, of the Third Day of *October*; and also the Report of the same Committee of the Twelfth Day of *October* be printed in the next Week's *Maryland Gazette*, and be continued for Six Weeks successively. Signed per Order, JOHN DUCKETT, Clk. Lo. Ho.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

RAN away on the 11th Instant from the Subscriber, living at *St. Catharine's*, near *Killam's*, by *George's Creek*, *Alleghany Mountain*, an Irish Convict Servant Man, named THOMAS BURN, alias BRYAN, about 26 Years of Age, 5 Feet 6 Inches high, blind of the left Eye, wears his own Hair, and is by Trade a Mason: Had on and took with him a Blanket Coat, Two Osnabrig Shirts, Two Pair of Trousers, a Surtout Coat, and Felt Hat. Whoever secures the said Servant, so that his Master gets him again, shall receive the above Reward, and reasonable Charges if brought home, paid by (4w) THOMAS FRENCH.

N. B. He is remarkably cut on the Buttocks by a Flogging he received from a former Master, and it is probable he may change his Name.

By his EXCELLENCY ROBERT EDEN, Esq; Lieutenant General, and Chief Governor in and over the Province of Maryland.

A PROCLAMATION.

BEING desirous to prevent any Oppressions and Exactions, from being committed under Colour of Office, by any of the Officers and Ministers of this Province, and every of them, their Deputies or Substitutes, in exacting unreasonable and excessive Fees from the good People thereof; I have thought fit, with the Advice of his Lordship's Council of State, to issue this my Proclamation, and I do hereby therefore order and direct, that from and after the Publication hereof, no Officer or Officers, (the Judges of the Land-Office excepted, who are subject to other Regulation to them given in Charge) their Deputies or Substitutes, by Reason or Colour of his or their Office or Offices, have, receive, demand, or take of any Person or Persons, directly or indirectly, any other or greater Fees than by an Act of Assembly of this Province, entitled, "An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees," made and passed at a Session of Assembly, begun and held at the City of *Annapolis*, on Tuesday the Fourth Day of *October*, in the Year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Sixty-three, were limited and allowed; or take or receive of any Person or Persons on immediate Payment, (in case Payment shall be made in Money) any larger Fee than after the Rate of Twelve Shillings and Six-pence common Current Money for One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, under the Pain of my Displeasure; and to the Intent that all Persons concerned may have due Notice thereof, I do strictly charge and require the several Sheriffs of this Province, to make this my Proclamation publick in their respective Counties, in the usual Manner, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril.

ROBERT EDEN.

Given at the City of *Annapolis*, this 26th Day of November, in the 10th Year of his Lordship's Dominion, Anno Domini 1770.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Con.

Elk-Ridge, December 4, 1770.

MY late Uncle, Mr. William Hall, of Elk-Ridge, by his last Will, appointed me his Executor, I have accordingly taken out Letters, and hereby give Notice to all Persons indebted, on open Accounts or otherwise, to come to the Store at Elk-Ridge and settle their Affairs with Mr. Edward Gaiber, who I have authorised for that Purpose: Those who ought now to pay I hope will do so without Trouble: Those who want and deserve Indulgence may expect to have it, upon proper Surety; and all those who have any just Claims against my deceased Uncle, are desired to send in their Accounts properly authenticated.

There is on Hand a large Assortment of valuable Goods, which I have ordered to be sold, in Wholesale or Retail, on very moderate Terms, and I have ordered a Ship from *London* into *Patasco* early in the Spring with Goods, effectually to supply the Store, and to give all my Friends, in the Neighbourhood of Elk-Ridge, an Opportunity of freighting their Tobacco early, so that all my Uncle's old Customers, and all those who think to begin a Correspondence with me, may depend on the utmost Care and Attention to their Interest and Convenience, as long as Myself or Sons are capable of Business.

I am now engaged in inventorying, and Appraising all the Personal Estate; and, on Thursday the 20th of December, I shall sell, at my late Uncle's Plantation, a large Parcel of valuable Country born NEGROES, Men, Women, Boys and Girls; several Horses and other Things; and I shall continue the Sale till all are sold. Credit will be allowed to the Buyers; if they desire it, upon good Security, and paying Interest.

(s)

STEPHEN WEST.

George-Town, December 3, 1770.

To be sold at publick Vendue, by the Subscriber, living on the Premises, on the 12th of this Instant, A valuable Lot of Ground in the Town of *Georgetown*, on *Potowmack River*, with a good Dwelling-House, Two Stories high, 26 Feet in front, and 26 Feet deep, and a Shed newly built for a Kitchen, the whole length of the House, with a convenient Fire-place, and a good Well in the Yard, with excellent Water. Half of said Lot likewise under good Fence, and a fine Garden Spot. For further Particulars enquire of

JEPHTHA HOLLINGSWORTH.

COMMITTED to Anne-Arundel County Jail as a Runaway, a Man who calls himself WILLIAM QURLSH, says he is a free Man, and served his Time with *Luke Davis*, in *Baltimore County*. His Master (if any) is desired to take him away, and pay Charges.

JOHN CLAPHAM, Sheriff