

Petitioner, and in Order to put in issue your Petitioner's fealty upon an Evidence in a Dispute between
a certain Gilbert Barrow and a Tenant of the said Robins, said; that your Petitioner was conveyed about
the County by the said Barrow to see ear to anything right or wrong, and by Way of insult told your Petitioner
he would make a Justice of Peace of him, and calling him Jack Russell in Order to provoke your Petitioner
as he apprehends to make a breach of the Peace, or to drop some Expressions against the said Robins
as a Magistrate that might give Occasion for a Prosecution, that the said Robins in pursuance
of his Malice laboured with the greatest Violence to procure an Information of Forgery to be exhibited
against your Petitioner only for altering a wrong Direction of a Warrant writ by Order of the Magis-
trate by your Petitioner as the worshipful Mr. Lords declared upon Oath, by means whereof your
Petitioner was put to a very great Expence; That your Petitioner was no sooner discharged of that
Affair, than the said Robins procured an Information to be exhibited against your Petitioner for
saying that the said Robins had not done him Justice in the Dispute with Sutton abovementioned
as appears by a Copy thereof herewith presented to your Excellency, and which, if at all said, was
spoken in private Conversation, and as your Petitioner is advised by Council, that the Words
though spoken are not any Offence, nor within the Letter or Meaning of the Act of Assembly upon
which the Information is founded; Your Petitioner doubts not but the Prosecution will appear
to your Excellency as malicious as groundless; That your Petitioner being called upon in the
Absence of his Attorney and obliged to plead to the said Information, that is not guilty, whereby
your Petitioner is given to understand he hath waived his Right of Demurrer, and as the Prose-
cutor has joined Issue on the fact, and inasmuch as your Petitioner is already almost ruined
the Sheriff's fees, and Officers and Evidence which the said Robins has caused to be summoned
their fees amounting to a large Sum of Tobacco, so that if your Petitioner is obliged to under-
go a Trial by the Country, the Expence thereof will entirely ruin your Petitioner though he be
acquitted of the Charge, your Petitioner not being in Circumstances to wage Law with a Man
of Mr. Robins Power, Influence and Wealth, so as to recover Satisfaction for the great Damage he
has sustained by the unjust Prosecution stirred up, and carried on against him by the Procurement
of the said Robins; Under these unhappy Circumstances your Petitioner begs Leave to prostrate
himself at your Excellency's feet, whose noble Soul abhors Oppression, and whose vigilant & compassionate
Care for his People will be a perpetual Monument of his Mercy and Justice, and to crave your
Excellency's Protection against this unadvised and cruel Prosecution, and that your Excellency by
paring the Talons of those who abuse the Authority vested in them by your Excellency, and convert
the wholesome streams which proceed from so pure a fountain into the most pestiferous
Draught, will restore Peace to the minds of many of his Lordship's Tenants of Talbot County
who groan under the insults of those, whose Authority was designed for their Protection, and
Your Petitioner with very many more, for your Excellency, as in Duty bound will ever pray

Upon reading and considering the said Petition, It is ordered that a Copy thereof
be sent to Mr. Robins, and that both Parties attend this Board with their Evidence on the
twentieth Day of October next; and It is likewise ordered that the Attorney General stay Prosecution
on the Information exhibited in Talbot County Court, and which is now depending in the Provincial
Court against the said Matthew Johnson, until further Order