

His Excellency having been pleased to lay before this Board an humble Address to him from the Lower house of Assembly presented setting forth "That in hearing the complaint of those they represented and examining into the Nature of any Oppression they may labour under was One of the most essential Parts of the great Trust committed to them, they begged Leave to acquaint his Excellency that in Execution of that Trust they found by the Information as well as Testimony of several Persons - had under Examination before them, that M^r. Philip Thomas a Farmer of his Lordships Quit Rents had grievously oppressed many of his faithful Tenants, and contrary to his Lordships known disposition in a most arbitrary and unwarrantable manner exacted and extorted from them in Discharge of their Quit Rents several Sums of foreign Gold and Silver at a Rate far less than is declared their Sterling Value by his Lordships Instruction of the fiftenth Day of December seventeen hundred thirty and five, and in open Contempt of his Lordships Direction by the said Instruction

"It likewise appeared that M^r. Gilbert Crockett a Receiver under the said Philip Thomas had not only in the like oppressive arbitrary and contemptuous manner committed Crimes of the like Nature, but also exacted and extorted from several of his Lordships Tenants sundry Sums of Money or Tobacco as fees due to himself which they conceived not to be warranted by any Law or Custom; that they viewed these Abuses with the utmost Abhorrence as they were committed under an Administration that never countenanced the least Oppression, and were such as might tend to alienate the minds of his Lordships Tenants from his Dominion and Government, thought in Justice to the Country the Persons committing such Abuses ought to be treated in such manner as might effectually discountenance all Oppressions of the like kind for the future, and to that End they begged Leave to entreat his Excellency to direct that the said Philip Thomas and Gilbert Crockett might be prosecuted according to Law for their Oppressions and Exactions aforesaid, and in Order more fully to open the Scene of their Behaviours to lay before his Excellency a Copy of the Report of the Committee of Approvers concurred to by that House with the Depositions annexed, not doubting but his Excellency Justice and Regard for the well being of the People of Maryland would appear upon this with the same Zeal as it had upon every other Occasion throughout the whole Course of his Adminis.

And having been pleased also to communicate to this Board the Copy of the Report mentioned in the said Address; Which being read and considered, It is the humble Opinion and Advice of this Board to his Excellency that the said Philip Thomas and Gilbert Crockett be prosecuted according to Law for their Oppressions and Exactions mentioned in the said Address and Report, which Advice and Opinion His Excellency being pleased to approve, M^r. Attorney General is hereby ordered and directed to prosecute the said Philip Thomas and Gilbert Crockett accordingly.

At a Council held in the Council Chamber on
Wednesday the 27th Day of July in the 28th Year
of his Lordships Dominion Annoq. Dom 1737

Present

His Excellency Samuel Ogle Esq. Governor

The Honble Benjamin Tasker Esq. Edmund Jennings Esq. Job Charles Hammond

Ordered that the Clerk of this Board summon the Gentlemen of the Council to attend this Board on Wednesday the 3rd Day of August next