

requested of my Brother Debtors to look how Barbarously I had been Whipped upon
 that viewing my Back they told me there was eight severe cuts which caused me
 many a Nights uneasiness with the Pain I endured and threatened me that he would
 have me in Irons and sent a Negro and took Measure of my Wrists and much more
 to increase my Aggravances he would not suffer my Wife to come to the Goal to Speak
 to me for several Weeks nor even allow me the Liberty of Writing to my Friends for fear
 I should discover his cruel Usage Your Honours will be pleased to have me and
 the following Men brought before your Honourable House whom will Justify my Com-
 plaint to be the whole Truth - My Evidences are Mr John Doncastle Mr Joseph Harrison
 Mr Ignatius Green and Mr John Neale Joyner the said Neale is now at Liberty -
 Your Petitioner therefore most humbly pray your Honours will take his Distressed
 and Lamentable Situation into your Serious Consideration and Grant such Relief as
 your Wisdom and Goodness think just and reasonable and thereby prevent a Con-
 tinuance of my Complaint and your Poor miserable distressed Petitioner as in Duty
 bound will ever pray -

William Wright
 9th Dec^r 1769.

By the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice December 7. 1769.

Your Committee beg leave to inform your Honourable House that they examined
 William Myatt Fentham who was Summoned as a Witness on the Petitions of the Priso-
 ners in Charles County Goal complaining against the Sheriff of that County and
 have taken his Deposition which is hereto annexed That it appears to your
 Committee by the Information of Capt. Francis Ware one of your Committee that
 the Room of the Private Goal in which Richard Lee Jun^r Sheriff of Charles
 County detains his Prisoners for Debt is about fifteen or sixteen feet square and
 had not any Fire place therein when he saw it in September last. All which
 is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House -

Signed sp. Orders Ralph Dobinson Clk.

The Deposition of William Myatt Fentham of Charles County being first
 duly sworn on the Holy Wargels of Almighty God Deposeth and saith that
 about two Weeks before Christmas in the Year Seventeen hundred and Sixty
 eight he this Deponent was committed to the Goal of Charles County for Debt
 and that he remained there from that time for the space of Twenty eight, Twenty
 Nine or Thirty Days when he was released by a Bail Bonds, that he was con-
 fined in a new House built by the Sheriff about Twelve Miles from the County
 Goal that John Doncastle and William Wright and several others were confined
 with him in the same Room That while they were there the Weather was very
 severe, that the Water came into their Room when it rained and that it there
 frequently became Ice not having for the whole time that he was with the Peti-
 tioners any Fire except one day when a chafing Dish of coals was brought to
 the Wickett and there continued for about one half Hour to the best of his Memory
 That while he this Deponent remained there several of his Companions were very
 Ill occasioned as he apprehends from the Noxious Vapours from the Dampness in the
 Room and want of Fire, that Doncastles Legs were swelled much and that he said
 he was Frostbit and was affraid that he should lose a Limb This Deponent also
 further saith that he wrote frequent Letters to the Sheriff acquainting him with their
 Deplorable