

we shall postponed any further Debate thereon, to another Opportunity, always reserving to our selves a liberty of Claiming the aforesaid Allowance of *One Hundred and Fifty Pounds of Tobacco per Day*, for our Attendance as a Council of State, as a just and indubitable Right.

Sign'd per Order, S. S. Cl. Up. Ho.

Mr. T. from the Committee of Aggrievances, returns the following Report, viz.

By the Committee of Aggrievances, *October the 22d, 1724.*

ON the many Complaints refer'd to this Sessions, to the examination of your Committee concerning the Abuses offered by Sheriffs in their Office, we humbly offer our Sense of them in general, That they seem to arise from an uneasiness betwixt the Sheriffs and the People, often occasion'd by private Dislikes of the Person of the Sheriff, and often from the Sheriffs discharge of his Duty, according to Law, tho' perhaps without shewing them such Indulgencies as he reasonably might without infringing it. The particular Complaints that have been refer'd to us, have appeared to be no other ways grounded. But we find the Act made in 1723, entituled, *An Act Reviving and Continuing an Act entituled, An Act for Limitation of Officers Fee's and for supplying some Defects therein*, Encourages several of the Sheriffs to Charge Fees for executing Levies and publick Dues, which was in our humble opinion, neither Legal nor in Practice before that Act was made; and for as much as it seems to this Committee that the small advantage of such Execution Fee may prevail on some Minds that may be mean enough to suffer it, to execute Persons without any other cause than that of increasing their gain by the Fee, and that the only end of giving the Sheriff Power of Executing for Levies, was the better to enable him to collect and secure the publick Dues, and to render his Office more easy to him in this part, without intending to put it into his own Power to increase his Fees, by such his Power to Execute; the allowing such Fees is therefore humbly offered as an Aggrievance. And also, that some Sheriffs insist upon a discount of *Ten per Cent.* for paying what they Owe, and refuse to discount Debts due from themselves to the order of their Creditors, on pretence the Act for direction of Sheriffs only relates to the Person of the Creditors, and not to his order, or on some such like frivolous Pretences.

Report concerning the Difference betwixt the Sheriffs and People.

Your Committee further humbly offers (according to the parol Instructions they have received from your Honours) that on a full Consideration of the Circumstances of this Office, the many Complaints that are yearly offered to the Assembly to the great Delay of other publick Business, and the general Murmurs of the People concerning them, can scarcely be prevented or remedied by any certain written Rules of Direction in that part; for as the Sheriffs in this Province by having the general Collection of all publick Dues and Officers Fees, as well as by other Duties and Powers rightly annex'd to their Office, have a much greater Influence upon the People, than Sheriffs or any other Officers in *England*, known to your Committee; and that their Office consists of so many several kinds of Duties, as are scarcely reducible to certain Rules. The most likely way to make the Sheriff and People easy with each other, would be to make them, in sort, dependent on each other, so that it might be the Interest of the Sheriff to accommodate himself to the People,

People,