

venting the Inconveniencies that arise from the present frequent Differences betwixt the People and Sheriffs, and therefore if the Objections in your Honours Message of this Instant by Mr. R. can be removed, we hope we may then lay a just claim to the Promise of your Endeavours in this part; and we hope your first Objection will not remain with you, when your Honours consider, there may be the same Regulations for the Electing a Sheriff, that are now used for the Electing Delegates, and that the Sheriff will be under the Restraint of all the Laws in Force, to prevent his oppressing those that have Voted against him, and will be under this more weighty Influence that by oppressing one of those that Voted against him, he might lose the Votes of many of those that Voted for him at the next Election, and so have a Period put to his Power of Oppressing, and the People have leave to chuse another in his room, who, for fear of the like Fate, would avoid the Offence. And we conceive your Observation, that the appointing Sheriffs has been hitherto thought a Branch of the Prerogative, will not at all discourage our Endeavours for the obtaining what we propose as an ease to the Prerogative; and if his Honour, the Governour, or the Chief Magistrate for the Time being, is pleased to think it so, and consents to it, we shall then think ourselves easy in the Remedy proposed; and if not, it is yet offering to his Honour an opportunity of doing an acceptable good, which, from Experience, we have no reason to believe he will decline Imbracing.

Sign'd per Order, M. J. Cl. Lo. Ho.

Which was sent to the Upper House by Mr. D. and Mr. T. They return, and say, they Delivered it.

Col. A. from the Upper House, delivers Mr. Speaker the *Reviving Bill to the Act for Officers Fees*, thus Endorsed, *viz.*

By the Upper House of Assembly, October the 31st, 1724

Gentlemen;

Bill for Officers Fees about Special Warrants and Renewments, from Upper House.

ON reading and considering the within Bill, we are of opinion, That the granting of Special Warrants by the Secretary, is a matter of Favour from his Lordship, we cannot therefore think the Customary Fee of *Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco* for Petition, Order and making out the said Warrant, is an unreasonable Fee, especially considering, that the Secretary or his Clerk, does, upon application (even of the most Ignorant) advise and form the necessary Recitals to each Warrant, without a regular Petition setting forth the several Circumstances of the Case. And as to the Renewal of Warrants, it is the Persons own Neglect who applies for them, if he does not make the proper Return, or Renew them within the Time limited.

N. B. *This Message contained much other matter concerning a part of that Bill, to oblige Officers to take Hemp and Flax in lieu of Tobacco for Fees; on which there happened much debate betwixt the Houses; but the Matter being at last concluded by an amendment of the Hemp and Flax Law, it was thought needless to trouble the Press with the Arguments.*

By the Lower House of Assembly, October the 31st 1724

May