

expect will be assented to ; but rather agree to conform, as near as may be, to the Regulation made Anno 1719, with a Liberty to the People, of paying Money at a certain Day, to be agreed on, at one Penny per Pound ; than suffer the Officers, and People to be continually engaged in Disputes, without any Law to govern themselves by.

If your House is inclinable to concur with what we propose, we desire a Committee of both Houses, may be again appointed to Consider thereof, and make a Report accordingly.

Col. Gale, James Holliday, Esq; and Major Robert King, are appointed to prepare a Supplementary Bill to the Act for the better Administration of Justice in Testamentary Affairs, granting Administrations, Recovery of Legacies, Securing Filial Portions, and Distribution of Intestates Estates : And that they employ a Clerk.

Benjamin Tasker, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers Mr. Speaker the Bill for laying out of Land and erecting a Town in St. Mary's County, at a Place call'd Seymour-Town, endors'd thus, viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly, October 22, 1728.

Read the first Time, and order'd to lie on the Table. And thus ; By the Upper House of Assembly, October 22, 1728. Read the second Time, and will pass.

The Bill for destroying Bears, in Somerset County, thus endors'd, viz. By the Upper House of Assembly, October 21, 1728. Read the first Time, and order'd to lie on the Table. And thus ; By the Upper House of Assembly, October 22, 1728. Read the second Time, and will pass.

The following Message being prepared, was order'd to be enter'd thus.

By the Lower House of Assembly, October 22, 1728.

May it please your Honours,

In Answer to your Message, by John Hall, Esq; of the 21st Instant, wherein you observe, that for some Years past, you have been denied any Allowance, as a Council of State ; although you conceive you have an undoubted Right thereto, and your Determination not to admit of any Abatement of your present Allowance, unless you be allowed as a Council of State ; upon which Terms, it seems your Honours would vouchsafe to agree to an Abatement, in the same Proportion with this House. This is indeed an Extraordinary Proposal, and tends much to ease the People of the heavy Burthen they bear ! If you were allowed 150 Pounds of Tobacco per Diem, as a Council of State, for as great, or (perhaps) a greater Number of Days than you attend the Upper House ; (to which Allowance, we conceive, you have no manner of Right, in the Manner you claim it ;) your Honours would condescend to abate Forty or Fifty Pounds of Tobacco per Diem, during such your Attendance.

As to the other Part of your Message wherein you propose to serve the Country at your own Expence, if we would do so too ; we observe, that our Allowance is established by a Law of the Country, which is wanting to support your Claim as a Council of State. And, altho' our Circumstances will not admit of our serving the Country at our own Expence, (nor do the People we represent desire it,) we are willing to reduce our present Allowances to what may be necessary for that End ; which we conceive to be very just and reasonable. And, if your Honours are so very tenacious of your own Allowances, as not to agree to any Abatement of them, but upon Terms so very advantageous to your selves, as you propose, which we cannot, in Justice to those we represent, agree to, or so prejudicial and unjust with Regard to our selves ; which we take to have been proposed purely to bring an Odium upon us, and we are confident will fail of its design'd Effect, — We have only to acquaint your Honours, that we shall proceed to prepare the Bill according to the Vote of our House.

Sent to the Upper House by John Beale, Esq; and Mr. Key ; who return, and say they deliver'd the same.

The Bill for laying out of Land, and erecting a Town, in St. Mary's County, at a Place formerly called Seymour-Town ; was read, and pass'd for Ingressing.

The Bill, entituled, An Act to erect a Parish in Anne-Arundel County, call'd Queen Caroline Parish, Read, and order'd to be Indors'd, viz. By the Lower House of Assembly, October 22, 1728. Read the first Time, and order'd to lie on the Table.

The Bill for the Naturalization of William Rayman, being read, was ordered to be thus endors'd, viz.

By the Lower House of Assembly, October 22, 1728.

Read the first and second Time, by especial Order, and will pass.

The following Message being prepar'd, was Order'd to be enter'd thus :

By the Lower House of Assembly, October 22, 1728.

May it please your Honours,

This House having considered your Message of this Day, by Col. Ward, and John Rousby, Esq; containing your Reasons, for disapproving the Report of the Conferees, appointed for regulating Officers Fees, to which Reasons, we beg leave to give the following Answers, in the same Order they lie before us, in your Message.

To the First, it is true, that several of the Fees were reduced by the Conferees, under what they were limited to, in the Year 1725, with good Reason as we conceive ; for we take it for granted, that when the Quantity each Officer ought to receive for his Services, come to be considered by the Legislature, the principal thing to be regarded, is, the real Value of the Service ; and when what the Service is justly worth, is allowed, he that receives that Allowance, has as much in Justice, and Reason, as he ought to have. And we can prove to a Demonstration, that the Fees as limited by the Conferees, are ample Rewards for the Services to be done for the said Fees. It is evident by the Report it self, that great Care has been taken, not only to allow Fees that were omitted in the former Regulation, but also to encrease such as fall short of Rewards adequate to the Services to be done for them.

That the Fees as regulated by the Conferees, are a decent Support for the respective Officers, would appear manifestly, if a Calculation was made of the Incomes of such, as are in a condition, by having a considerable Number of Slaves, to make large Quantities of Tobacco, and that Calculation, compar'd with the Profits of several, even of the middling Offices. And we beg leave to observe further, that nothing ought to be assented upon any particular Man, or Number of Men, but for the Good and Safety of Society, and in Proportion to what the other Members of the same Society bear, but what such particular Man, or Number of Men, receive the Value of : Whence it follows, that if the Fees regulated by the Conferees, were not really what your Honours intend, by a decent Support, for the Officers, it would be of no Weight, Provided those Fees be, (as they really are) ample Rewards for the Services to be done for them. Besides the Circumstances of the Country, make it our indispensable Duty to avoid, as much as in us lies, and as is consistent with Justice, adding to the heavy and almost insupportable Burthens, the People already groan under ; which we conceive would be the case should we agree to raise the Fees of Ministerial Officers, beyond the true Value of their Services, and which we hope your Honours, have too much Compassion for the People to desire to do. We desire to