

The Question being put, Whether there should be any Alteration made to that Part of the Law which allows a fourth Part of the Debts to be deducted, or not? Resolv'd in the Negative.
The House adjourns until Two of the Clock in the Afternoon.

(Friday, at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon.)

The House met according to Adjournment. The Members was called, and all present as in the Morning.

Mr. Samuel Hanson, from the Committee of Laws, delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, Intituled, *An Act for the laying out of Land, and erecting a Town at the Head of Port-Tobacco Creek, in Charles County.*

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

By the Lower House of Assembly, July 18, 1729.

May it please your Honours,

The very low State of the Tobacco-Trade, makes it the Duty of every Man in Maryland, to consider of the most probable Means he can think of, to raise the Price of it, since we have very little else to depend on to supply us with common Necessaries, besides the Produce of that Commodity. This Consideration has put us as well upon examining the late Tobacco-Law, correcting some Things in it that we conceive to be amiss, and making some further Provision to render it more effectual; as also upon considering the Advantages which would probably result from concerting Measures with our Neighbours of Virginia, (who depend upon the Produce of Tobacco as well as we do.) to raise the Price of our Staple. And this House being unanimously of Opinion, That a Friendly Correspondence with Virginia, to the Ends already mentioned, would be very advantageous to both Countries; We desire your Honours will appoint some of your Members to confer with some Members of this House, concerning the best Method of carrying on such a Correspondence.

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

Sent to the Upper House by Major Hanson, and Mr. Hamilton; who return, and say they delivered the same.

The following Message, viz.

By the Lower House of Assembly, July 18, 1729.

May it please your Honours,

This House having taken into Consideration, the Inconveniences the People are liable to, from a Want of the Officers Fees being reduc'd to a Certainty; and that the Fees mention'd in a Bill propos'd to be pass'd last Session, are adequate Rewards for the Services to be done for them. We therefore desire your Honours Concurrence with us, in passing a Bill into a Law of the same Nature with that agreed to by both Houses last Session; the Fees being subject to the same Deduction that other Tobacco-Debts and Dues are subject to, by the Act for the Improvement of the Staple of Tobacco.

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

Was sent to the Upper House by Mr. Crabb, and Mr. Tolley; who return and say they deliver'd the same.

The Bill, Intituled, *An Act for the laying out of Land, and erecting a Town at the Head of Port-Tobacco Creek, in Charles County,* was read the first Time, and order'd to lie on the Table.

The Petition of Mr. Thomas Cockey, was read, and reject'd.

Col. Tilghman, from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Message, viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly, July 18, 1729.

Gentlemen,

In Answer to your Message of this Afternoon, by Major Hanson, and Mr. Hamilton, this House hath appointed the Hon. Philemon Lloyd, John Rousby, and Philip Lee, Esqrs; to meet any of the Members your House shall appoint, in a Conference, to consider of the Means of carrying on a friendly Correspondence with our Neighbours of Virginia, in order to raise the Price of Tobacco; who will be ready to attend at the House of Mr. George Neifson, on Tuesday next, being the Twenty Second of this Instant July, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon.

Sign'd per Order, John Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

This House doth appoint Mr. Dulany, Mr. Samuel Hanson, Mr. Fenings, Mr. Crabb, Col. Gale, and Mr. Hollydy, to join the Members propos'd by the Upper House, concerning the settling a Correspondence with the Gentlemen of Virginia.

Col. Ward, from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker, the Paper Bill entituled, *An Act for the Naturalization of Christian Peters, of Cecil County, a Native of Germany,* thus Indors'd, viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly, July 18, 1729.

The ingross'd Bill, whereof this is the Original, is read and assented to by this House. And

Sign'd per Order, John Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

And the Bill, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Punishing of Negroes and other Slaves; and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain Offenders,* Indors'd thus:

By the Upper House of Assembly, July 16, 1729.

Read the first Time, and order'd to lie on the Table.

Sign'd per Order, John Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

And thus Indors'd, viz.

By the Upper House of Assembly, July 18, 1729.

Read a second Time, and will pass; the following Amendment, being made thereto, viz. Between the Words *Or* and *Burning*, in the fourth Line of the second Paragraph, be put in the Word *Wilfully*. That the Words (*award Execution*,) in the beginning of the sixth Line of the same Paragraph be left out; and that Part of the said Paragraph, giving the Judges a discretionary Power of Punishing, be omitted: And that the Judgment for the Crimes mentioned in the said Act, be, *To have the Right Hand cut off, the Offender hang'd in the usual Manner, the Head sever'd from the Body, the Body divided into four Quarters, and the Head and Quarters set up in the most publick Place of the County where the Fact was committed.* And that a Clause be inserted, to allow the Owner of any Slave that