

Mr. Hammond, and Mr. Smith, ordered to acquaint the Governor, this House hath prepared an Address to him; and desireth to know, when and where he will receive it. They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker, the Governor will be ready to receive it in Half an Hour in the Conference Chamber.

Col. Mackall, and 12 more, ordered to attend the Governor with the Address.

Ordered, That Mr. Jobson acquaint Mr. Philip Thomas, Mr. Galloway, and Doctor Chew, to attend this House To-morrow.

The House adjourns until To-morrow Morning, Nine of the Clock.

Thursday Morning, May 12, 1737.

THE House met according to Adjournment. All present as Yesterday, except Col. Ward. The Governor communicated to the House, the following Answer to the Address of the House presented Yesterday, viz.

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

I have, in Pursuance of your Address delivered to me Yesterday, repeated my Directions to His Lordship's Agent, to lay before you the Instructions you mention, relating to cut Gold; or if that cannot be found, to give you as full an Information as possible, of the Contents of the said Instruction, as well as the Date thereof, and the Time when he received it from His Lordship.

SAMUEL OGLE:

Mr. Matthews, from the Committee of Aggrievances, &c. delivered the following Report.

By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice, May 12, 1737.

YOUR Committee having had divers Informations of the Exactions and Oppressions committed by some of the Firmers and Receivers of His Lordship's Quit-Rents, have procured a Sight of the Directions given by the former Agent; and also, the Lord Proprietary his Instructions, bearing Date at London, the 15th of December, 1735; by which they find, that by the first, the Farmers and Receivers were informed, that the said Agent would receive from them whole Gold at 3s. 11d. and cut Gold at 3s. 6d. a Penny Weight, and Silver at 5s. per Ounce: And that by His Lordship's aforesaid Instructions, he directs his Agent to take no Foreign Gold at above 3l. 16s. 9d. and Silver at 5s. per Ounce: From which, your Committee conceives, His Lordship is willing to accept of those Kinds of Money at those Rates, and never intended they should be taken from His Tenants at a less Value.

Yet your Committee have it before them, by the Testimony of Witnesses, That Mr. Philip Thomas, one of the Firmers and Receivers for Anne-Arundel County, has received 4s. 6d. cut Gold for 20 Sterling, due from a certain Sarah Stevens; and has not, from any Person who has appeared before your Committee who hath paid him cut Gold, taken it at less than One Hundred per Cent. And in one Instance, where he had distrained a Negro, would not take cut or even whole Gold, altho' offer'd to him, but insisted on Sterling Money; and by Means thereof, the said Negro was kept in Custody a Day or Two longer; and thereby, the Person to whom the Negro belonged, forced to pay 20lb. Tobacco per Day, besides the other Fees charged to and paid by the Master of the said Negro: And that he has been so far from accepting Spanish Silver at the Rate by his Lordship directed, (founded upon the Value the same Money and cut Gold bear in London,) that he has refused to accept such Money, viz. Spanish Silver at less than One Hundred per Cent. Difference; and has also taken Pistoles weighing 23s. 10d. at no more than 14 or 15 Shillings and some few odd Pence.

Your Committee further find, That by the Direction in Writing from Doctor Samuel Chew, and Mr. John Galloway, who alledge themselves Firmers and Receivers under Mr. Philip Thomas, for Baltimore County, send to the Person who collects the Rents there, ordered not to take Molders for more than 25s. each, cut Gold at 2s. 9d. a Penny Weight, and whole Pieces of Eight at 60 per Cent. and other Spanish Money at 100 per Cent. Which said Direction the Deputy has so well observed, that the People have been forced to let them have them at those Rates; nay, one Person has paid him a Pistole weighing 23s. 10d. for 12s. 10d. which your Committee apprehends to be directly contrary to His Lordship's Instructions, and in it self a very great Aggrievance. It is also further offered to your Committee, as an Aggrievance, That the Sheriff and Deputy Receiver of Baltimore County have exacted from several Persons different Quantities of Tobacco, where no Distress has been made, and induced some of them to pass Notes for, and pay the same, by being told by one or other of them, that if they suffer'd their Goods to be distrained, it would be more expensive to them, and cost them 4 or 600 Pounds of Tobacco; and that the said Sheriff share the same between them. Thus have your Committee mentioned some few Facts, and for the Support of them and many others, refer to the Consideration of the House.

Sign'd per Order of the Committee, Thomas Lynn, Clerk.

And the following Instructions, viz.

Gilbert Crockett, the Collector of the Quit-Rents for this County, being, as we perceive very backward, and so few People coming in to discharge their respective Accounts at this Publick Time, we are apprehensive, that except some Rigour is used in the Collection, it will be impossible for the Farmers to comply with their Engagements to the Right Hon. the Lord Proprietary; since therefore, the Backwardness of the People makes the following Instructions absolutely necessary, you are to pursue them with Vigour and Exactness.

Imprimis, All such Persons as do not come in and discharge their Accounts for Quit-Rents within Ten Days after Date of these Instructions, you are immediately to proceed against them,

by