

Mr. *Denton*, and Mr. *George*, sent to the Upper House to see them Qualified, by taking the several Oaths to the Government required by Law, by Signing the Oath of Abjuration, by Repeating and Signing the Test.

Mr. *Matthews*, from the Committee of Aggrievances, &c. delivers Mr. Speaker the following Report:

By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice, May 28. 1739.

YOUR Committee observe, that the Fees of the several Officers and Ministers of this Province, their deputed Ministers, Servants, and Officers, are in themselves as now paid, Excessive, Great and Oppressive to the Subject, and that the said Fees are under no Regulation of any Law of this Province, that appears to your Committee.

That the said Officers and Ministers, their deputed Ministers, Servants and Officers, by Power of a Proclamation of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, dated the 14th Day of *April* 1733, and one Order of Council, dated the 23d Day of *April* 1735; and one other Order of Council, dated the 15th Day of *July* 1735 hereunto annexed, do Charge, Levy, Raise and Receive from his Majesty's Subjects of this Province, such Fees so as aforesaid Burthensome, Great and Oppressive, to the Discouragement, Ruin and Undoing of many of his Majesty's Liege Subjects; and even the said Colour of Power is exceeded by the unlimited Will, and unbounded Avarice, of many of the said Officers, Ministers and their Deputies.

Your Committee humbly observe, that by the Royal Charter, the Resolves of your Honourable House, and the common Custom of this Province, the Subjects here are entitled to the Customs, Common Law, and the Securative Statutes of the Rights and Liberties of the Subjects in our Mother Country *Great Britain*; and by which Custom of *Great Britain*, such like Fees of the Courts of Justice, and the several Officers, have been Settled by Acts of Parliament; agreeable to which,

Your Committee further most humbly observe, that from the earliest Time since the Settlement of this Province, by *British* Subjects, such Fees have been Adjusted and Regulated, by Acts of the General Assembly, and not by any other Power or Authority, 'till the aforesaid Proclamation.

Your said Committee most humbly conceive, that such Proclamations, or Orders of Council, charging his Majesty's Liege and Dutiful Subjects with any Tax, or Talliage, are Invasions on the Fundamental Constitution of this Province, and against the lawful Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and are, in themselves and their Consequences, very Grievous and Oppressive to his Majesty's Liege Subjects, the Inhabitants of this Province; but the same is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

Signed *per* Order of the Committee, *S. Bordley*, Clerk