

By the Lower House of Assembly, May 29. 1739.

May it please your Honours,

This House having received several Complaints from many Parts of this Province concerning Officer's Fees, prepared a Bill for the Limitation of them, as the best and only Expedient to remove all causes of Complaint, and to satisfy all Parties, which Bill your Honours have not thought fit to Pass. We can't imagine your not Passing the said Bill could have proceeded from any Inclination in your Honours not to join your Endeavours with ours, to render the People easy, and to remove every Obstacle to their Happiness. This being the Opinion we have of your Honours, we apprehend that your Refusing to Concur with this House in the said Bill, was occasioned by some weighty Objections which you thought you had to some Parts of it. If we judge right of your Honours Motives, we still entertain Hopes, that either your Objections may be obviated, or such Expedients found out, as may remove all Difficulties to settle the Fees upon such a Foundation as will be certain and satisfactory, as well to the People who Pay, as the Officers who shall be entitled to Receive them. To this End we propose a Conference with such Members of your House, as you shall think fit to appoint for that Purpose.

Signed per Order, *M. Macnemara*, Cl. Lo. Ho.

Sent to the Upper House by *Mr. Denton* and *Mr. Courts*.

They return and acquaint *Mr. Speaker* they delivered the Message.

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 said Committee humbly beg leave to Inform your House, that upon Inspecting the Records and Papers of the Provincial Office, and upon Demanding of the Clerk of the said Office, By what Authority the several Fees of that Office were Charged, the said Clerk informed your said Committee, That the said Fees were charged by Virtue of a Regulation made by the Lord *Baltimore's* Proclamation.

That it being also Demanded of him, In what manner the Lists of such Fees were sent, or in what manner collected, the said Clerk answered, that Bonds were taken, and sent to the Sheriffs with the Particulars Indorced, and Lists also.

That upon it's being further demanded of him the said Clerk, In what Specie the Fees were charged, he informed your said Committee, that the same were charged in Tobacco, but that where Money had been paid on the doing the Business, they took in the said Office *Twenty Shillings* per Hundred in lieu of Tobacco, and so *pro rato*, at the Choice of the Party.