

Your Committee most humbly conceive, that the taking such Bonds for Fees before the same become due, is Extortion, against Law, and that such have been a very great Aggrievance and Oppression to his Majesty's Liege and Dutiful Subjects in this Province: But they humbly submit the same to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

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

The House Concur therewith.

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

*By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice, May 30. 1739.*

IT appears to your Committee, upon Examination of *Thomas Bullen* late Clerk of *Talbot* County, by the Examination and Papers hereunto annexed, that there is a strong Pretumption of there having been great Abuses committed in relation to the Huxtering, Sale and Purchasing the Office of Clerk of the said County, and particularly by the present Clerk *John Leeds*.

Your Committee most humbly conceive, that the Sale of such Clerkships relating to Courts of Justice, is against Law, and productive of many Evils to his Majesty's Dutiful Subjects, but 'tis humbly submitted to your Honourable House. Signed *per* Order of the Committee, S. Bordley, Clerk.

*The Examination of Thomas Bullen.*

*Thomas Bullen*, of *Talbot* County, being Examined before your Committee, Declares, that some time in the Year 1729, or thereabout, he had finished an Apprenticeship or Clerkship with *Tench Francis* of the said County, Gent. who was at that Time Clerk of the said County, during which Time he wrote for the said *Francis*, as Clerk of the said County, and as an Attorney likewise, and that for and during the Space of three or four Years next after his said Clerkship or Apprenticeship expired, he the said *Thomas Bullen* was out of Business suitable to him, and in the Year 1734, entred into a verbal Contract with the said *Tench Francis*, then also Clerk of the said County, but the said Contract was Entred into and Executed in Writing, between *Richard Francis*, late of *Ann-Arundel* County, Esq; Brother to the said *Tench*, and the said *Thomas Bullen*; and after the execution of which Articles as aforesaid, the said *Richard Francis* assigned the said Contract over unto the said *Tench Francis* by a Writing, a Copy whereof, with a Copy of the said Articles, he the said *Thomas Bullen* delivered to your Committee, and are hereunto annexed, and under which Articles a Commission was Granted to the said *Thomas Bullen* to be Clerk of the said County, and which Commission was procured by the Interest of the said *Tench Francis* from *Edmund Jenings*, Esq; Secretary of *Mary-*