

also, by Repute, is a Person of good Credit and Ability, and very capable to have paid any Costs that had, or could have, arisen in the Prosecution of the said Suit.

Your Committee humbly conceive, that such Actings and Doings are a Let, Hindrance to, and a Denial of Justice, and greatly tend to the unnecessary Multiplication of Fees, and of Course, to the unnecessary Burthening the Subject; and that the taking of Judgment Bonds, or any Bonds in such Cases, is Extortion; and, that it is a great Aggrievance, and a present and growing Evil against Law and Reason, that his Lordship's Secretary of State, who is thereby Chief Clerk of the Provincial, and Chief Register in the Chancery Courts, his Deputy, Clerks, or other Officers of any Courts of Record within this Province, to whose Power, Care and Keeping, the Records of such Courts are Committed, and who take and receive to themselves the Profits and Advantages of the Fees arising on all Actions Commenced and Prosecuted, should be admitted to Practice as Attornies, Solicitors or Counsellors, in such Courts, the Fees whereof do arise and accrue due unto themselves: And that the whole is a Heavy and Oppressive Aggrievance, and loudly Calls for Redress; But the same is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

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

The House unanimously concurs with the Report.

Mr. *Matthews* from the Committee of Aggreivances, &c. delivers Mr. Speaker the following Report, *Viz.*

*By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice, May 26. 1739.*

Y Our 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 Indorsed, 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 is paid on doing the Business, they then take *Twenty Shillings* per Hundred in lieu of Tobacco, and so *pro rato*, at the choice of the Party.

That the said Clerk being requested to produce such Bonds as are usually