

to rid harm or be hurt, on which he the said *Thomas* told him he would resign, whereupon the said *Tench* desired him the said *Thomas* to go to the said *Leeds* and ask him Three Hundred and Twenty Pounds *Sterling* for the Place of Clerk of *Talbot* County aforesaid, and if he could get it, he should have Twenty, which accordingly the said *Thomas* did, thinking himself in Duty obliged to obey the Orders of the said *Tench*, not thinking them unlawful, and met the said *Leeds* near the Houle of Capt. *Merriot*, where, or near the Place where, he had parted with him before, and asked him the said *Leeds*, after some previous Discourse, what he would give for the said Office of Clerk, and after some questions by him the said *Leeds* asked of said *Thomas*, as whether he would Resign the Place aforesaid, and such others relating thereto, and after his answering in the Affirmative, he the said *Leeds* asked what he would take, the said *Thomas* told him Three Hundred and Twenty Pounds *Sterling*, whereupon he the said *Leeds* offered One Hundred and Thirty Pounds *Sterling*, or more, and other offers of Land and other Composition, thinking the Sum of *Sterling* Money too large. The said *Thomas* not finding *Leeds* comply, and not being very forward, returned to the said *Francis* in some time after; upon which the said *Francis* told him, that *Leeds* aforesaid had been with him the said *Francis*, and declared to him, he could Purchase the Office of him the said *Thomas* for a trifle, One Hundred and Thirty Pounds, as he the said *Leeds* had said; the said *Bullen* answered and said, he believed he would give more, and that he had asked him the Three Hundred and Twenty Pounds, upon which the said *Francis* desired the said *Bullen* to go to the aforesaid *Leeds*, and tell him to come to him the said *Francis* and agree with him, which the said *Thomas Bullen* accordingly did in a short time, in *Annapolis* aforesaid, and told the said *Leeds* he must go and agree for the Place aforesaid with the said *Francis*. In a few Days after, the said *Thomas* being called before a Committee of the House of Delegates, in relation to some ill Practices in the said Office, he return'd to him the said *Tench Francis* and asked him if he the said *Thomas* might not as well have the said Office as *Leeds*, and that he could afford to give as much as *Leeds* should, upon which the said *Francis* answered, that he should have it for Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds *Sterling*, and then parted; some time after which, he the said *Thomas*, at or near *Talbot* County Court House, in Court Time, had some Discourse with the said *Francis*, and told him he could not procure the Money, but that if he would continue him in the Office, he would make him any reasonable consideration, but that if he insisted he would Resign: They thereupon also parted, and in about a Week or some few Days after, in the Court Time of *Talbot* County aforesaid, the said *Tench Francis*