

the Oath, as the same did not appear to us. We find the Accounts entered in the said Office to the 20th of March last; and Inventories to 3d of September, 1744; and the Office in good Order.

Your Committee likewise inspected the Land Office, and sent a Commission to Philip Thomas, Esq; to be Judge and Register of the Land Office; and certified on the Back of the said Commission, that the said Thomas was qualified, by taking the several Oaths to the Government, and Oath of Office; but as to the Form of the Oath of Office we know not.

The Conditions of Plantations are the same as mentioned in the former Report of a Committee of the House of Delegates; and the whole Business of the last Year entered up to the 25th of December, 1744, and the Office in good Order.

Your Committee have likewise inspected the Mayor's Court Office of the City of Annapolis, and find the said Office in very confused Order, Papers of different Sorts promiscuously in a Tub, and trod under Foot; and the Judgment of the Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly entitled, *An Act for settling all Disputes concerning the Boundaries of the several Lots within the City of Annapolis, and confirming the same to the respective Takers-up, Improvers, and Purchasers thereof, and for laying out ten Acres of Land out of the Town-Pasture into twenty Lots more, to be added to the said City, in loose Sheets of Papers, very liable to be lost or mislaid*; whereas the said Act directs the recording of the same in the Records of the Mayor's Court: And inasmuch as the Property of the People residing in, or owning any Lots or Parcels of Land within the said City, depends in great measure on the Judgment aforesaid, we conceive the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, should be directed to order the said Office to be kept in better Order; and that the said Judgment be recorded in a good Record-Book in the Office aforesaid, and properly examined.

All which is submitted to the Consideration of your honourable House.

Signed per Order, E. DORSEY, Cl. Com.

By the Committee of Aggrievances and Courts of Justice:

**Y**OUR Committee humbly take Leave to inform your House, that some Time in the Summer last past David Peterkin, of Dorchester County, and sundry others in the same County, were complain'd against by Charles Beckwith, an Overseer of a Highway there, that they had omitted to labour on the Highway, to Capt. Basil Noel, of said County, a Magistrate, and obtained a Warrant on each supposed Omission or Offence; on which Warrants, some particular Persons being thereby at one Time brought before the said Basil Noel, who, contrary to all Right, disregarding the Rules and Methods of Procedure ever heretofore used and practised, refused to hear any Reasons or Excuses of Sickness, Want of due Notice, or other Reasons whatsoever, or even the Evidence of an Oath, for Conviction of them or any of them, gave Judgment, as he declared, against them for Payment of one hundred Pounds of Tobacco on each Warrant, and the Costs of two Shillings and six Pence; which Fee to the Constable your Committee conceive is not warranted by Law.

Your Committee further observe, that Capt. Basil Noel aforesaid hath been heard before them, and hath confessed the Facts so far as related to his own Procedure, and saith he apprehended it right, he being Judge, but saith further, that if unjust, it was not through any unjust Design, but for want of Knowledge; and that he doubted not but he could justify himself.

All which manner of Procedure, whether occasioned by Ignorance, Corruption, or whatever other Cause, your Committee resolve to be illegal, unjust, and oppressive; and tends to beget in the good People of this Province, his Majesty's liege Subjects, an ill Opinion of his Lordship's good Rule and Government.

But humbly submit the whole to the Consideration of your honourable House.

Signed per Order, E. DORSEY, Cl. Com.

Which Reports being Read, the Consideration of them is referred to the next Session of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker communicates to the House the following Message from the Governor, viz,

Gentlemen of the Lower House of Assembly,

**I** Can truly assure you, that any Prospect of Happiness and Quiet to the People of this Province gives me no less Satisfaction than yourselves, and I have done, and shall continue to do, every Thing in my Power to convince you and your Constituents of my sincere Disposition to such desirable Ends: It was therefore that I deferred 'til now the recommending a Provision for Arms and Ammunition, that Matters which most nearly concerned the Ease and Convenience of the People, and say nearest their Wives might take the first Place, and find no Interruption, at least from me, in their Progress: But you will give me Leave to say, I think it by no means convincing, that the Provision for so necessary a Fund should be put off, because of the unusual Length of Time already spent this Session: The Safety of the Country demands such a Provision, and every Argument that recommends a proper Regard for the Ease and Conveniency of the People may with, at least as much Force, and Justice, be urged for a due Care for their Security and Defense, and surely the Time, which need be very little, cannot be better spent than to so good a Purpose. There are now several Bills prepared greatly advantageous to the Country and agreeable to their most earnest Desires, is it natural to believe your Constituents would in the same Session, in which they obtain so much, make so strange a Return, as to refuse this Fund, which cannot be made Use of but for their Honour and Security, and would not my Fate seem very particular, that at a Time when I am going to pass the most favourite Laws with the People, I should be desired a Bill that has been given in every Governor's Time for these forty Years.

What you mention with Regard to the Sum already raised, I suppose must proceed from your being unacquainted with what Money remains on that Fund, which is by no means proportioned, or sufficient for the Purchase of Arms and Ammunition; therefore I desire you will once more take this Affair into your Consideration, and make such a Provision as will be suitable to the Defence and Safety of the Province, and other Emergencies which may happen in this Time of an open and declared War.

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