

“ have always found me ready to give them, in their public Consultations, all the Assistance in my Power,
 “ you can have no Reason to doubt my pursuing the same Conduct for the future, whenever a proper Ap-
 “ plication shall be made to me for that Purpose; and had you, instead of sending for my Secretary to your
 “ Bar, address’d me upon the Occasion, I should, were the Subject proper for the Knowledge of the Public,
 “ have given you Satisfaction on the Point of your Enquiry; and, by this Means these Irregularities, and
 “ my Cause of Complaint, and other Consequences resulting from them, might have been avoided.

“ Gentlemen,

“ Having now given you a general View of the Rights of the several Branches of the Legislature, with
 “ Regard to each other, and my Sense of your late Treatment of me in the Person of my Secretary, I shall
 “ conclude with intreating you to give the Matters that I recommended to your Consideration, an immedi-
 “ ate Place in your Deliberations; and as you must, by making suitable Provision for those Services, ne-
 “ cessarily lay a heavy Load upon the People, I think it behoves us the more to lighten their Burthens in
 “ other Respects: To this, *Gentlemen*, you may greatly contribute, by diligently attending the public Bu-
 “ siness, and carefully avoiding all such Steps, as can only tend to protract the Session.

“ 11th October, 1757.

HOR^o. SHARPE.”

The House adjourns until the Morrow Morning at IX of the Clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, October 12, 1757.

THE House met according to Adjournment: The Members were called, and all appeared as Yesterday.
 The Proceedings were Read.

• Mr. Plater and Mr. Wilson appeared in the House.

On Motion, Ordered, That Mr. Hammond, Mr. Murdock, and Mr. Dorsey, be a Committee to inspect the Records in the Provincial Office, and Report to the House, Whether any Commission, appointing Mr. John Ridout Secretary to his Excellency the Governor, be on Record there; and whether it there appears that he has taken the Oaths to the Government, to Qualify him on such Commission; and that they likewise inspect the said Records, and Report, whether it appears on Record in the said Office, that a Commission hath been granted by any former Governor of this Province, appointing any Person as his Secretary.

Mr. Hammond brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Report, *viz.*

By the Committee appointed by the Honourable Lower House of Assembly to inspect the Records in the Provincial Office, and Report to the House, whether there is any Commission appointing Mr. John Ridout Secretary to his Excellency the Governor on Record there; and whether it there appears that he has taken the Oaths to the Government, to Qualify him on such Commission; and likewise to inspect the said Records, and Report, whether it appears on Record in the said Office, that a Commission hath been granted by any former Governor of this Province, appointing any Person as his Secretary.

YOUR Committee have carefully examined the Records of the Provincial Office of this Province, and do not find any Commission on the said Records to John Ridout, to execute the Office of Secretary to Horatio Sharpe, Esq; Governor of Maryland, or any other Office in this Province; or that the said John Ridout ever took any Oath of Office, or took the Oaths to the Government, in order to Qualify him to execute any Office within this Province.

Your Committee have also carefully examined the said Records of the said Provincial Court, from the present Time as far back as the Year of the happy Revolution, and do not find any Commission granted to any Person, to execute the Office of Secretary to any Governor of this Province.

All which is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

Signed per Order,

THOMAS JOHNSON, junior, Clerk said Committee.

Which was Read, and Ordered to lie on the Table.

The Order of the Day being Read; the House proceeded to an Hearing of the Petition and Representation of the Freeholders of *St. Mary's* County; and after full Examination of Witnesses at the Bar, Referred the Consideration thereof until the Afternoon.

The House adjourns until II of the Clock Afternoon:

Post-Meridiem. The House met according to Adjournment, &c.

The House proceeded further on an Hearing of the Petition and Representation of the Freeholders of *St. Mary's*