

acquainted with the Language thereof, or was otherwise privy or assenting to the same; and then he was ordered to withdraw,

Then the House came to the following Resolutions.

RESOLVED, That Mr. *John Smith* has given sufficient Satisfaction to this House, that he did not sign the said Petition, or was privy or assenting to the same.

RESOLVED, That Mr. *John Smith* misbehaved himself to the Officer of this House, at the Time of the Service of the Order on him, and that therefore he be reprimanded.

ORDERED, That Mr. Speaker reprimand him.

Mr. Speaker reprimanded him accordingly.

ORDERED, That he be discharged, and that Mr. Speaker acquaint him therewith.

RESOLVED, That Mr. *John Purviance* has given sufficient Satisfaction to this House, that he did not sign the said Petition, or was privy or assenting to the same.

ORDERED, That he be discharged.

RESOLVED, That Mr. *James Sterrett* has given sufficient Satisfaction to this House that he did not sign the said Petition.

ORDERED, That he be discharged.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House a Letter to him directed, which was ordered to be read, and the same was read accordingly, and is as follows.

S I R,

“ AN Officer of the Lower House of Assembly, the other Day, summoned sundry Gentlemen of this Town to appear before that House, to answer, as he said, a Petition preferred to the Upper House of Assembly at the last Sessions.

“ As we presume, the Petition referred to is one that was signed by the Inhabitants of this County, and presented to the Upper House, against a Petition and Bill there depending, for the dividing the General Election; we take the Liberty of requesting you to assure the honourable House, that no Reflection or Indignity whatever was intended on the Conduct of the House by that Petition: That whatever exceptionable Expressions are contained therein, were rather the Effect of Inadvertency and Hurry, than of any premeditated Design to insult the House, whose Conduct and Readiness to enact such Laws, for the Improvement and Advantage of *Baltimore-Town* as were applied for, merited the Thanks of every Inhabitant of the same. We flatter ourselves the House will accept this Apology for our Conduct, and excuse our personal Attendance, which we omit, not from Disrespect to the Process of the House, but from the Inconveniency of such Numbers as signed that Petition being absent from their respective Homes.

We are, with Respect for the honourable House,

Baltimore-Town, Oct. 18, 1770.

S I R, your most obedient Servants,

*To the honourable Edward Tilghman, Esq;
Speaker of the Lower House, Annapolis.*

ROBERT ALEXANDER,
WILLIAM SPEAR,
JACOB MYERS,
JOHN HART,
C. WEISENTHAL,
THOMAS JONES.”

On reading a Second Time the said Letter, RESOLVED, That this House, on Order to attach the Body, will receive no Apology by Letter, and that the Subscribers of the above Letter are guilty of a Contempt of the Order of this House in not appearing.

ORDERED, That the Serjeant at Arms attending this House, do forthwith take into his Custody, the Bodies of *Robert Alexander, William Spear, Jacob Myers, John Hart, Charles Weisenthal, and Thomas Jones*, and have them immediately at the Bar of this House, to answer, at the Bar of this House, for a certain false and scandalous Petition, signed by them and preferred to the Upper House of Assembly, at the last Session of Assembly, reflecting on the Honour, Justice, and Impartiality of this House, and highly derogatory of its Rights and Privileges; and also, to answer for their Contempt in not obeying the former Order of this House, dated the 13th Instant.

ORDERED, That the Serjeant at Arms do forthwith take into his Custody, the Bodies of *Samuel Owings, Jun. Benjamin Rogers, Jonathan Plowman, Richard Moale, Charles Ridgel, William Ottey, John Dodge, and John Boyd*, and have them immediately at the Bar of this House, to answer, at the Bar of this House, for a certain false and scandalous Petition, signed by them, and preferred to the Upper House of Assembly, at the last Session of Assembly, reflecting on the Honour, Justice, and Impartiality of this House, and highly derogatory of its Rights and Privileges.

Philip Meroney, the Person deputed by the Serjeant at Arms to serve the Order of this House of the 13th Instant, being called upon, to give this House an Account of the Conduct of the Persons on whom he served the same, acquainted the House, that Messieurs *Robert Alexander* and *Thomas Jones*, at the Time of serving the Order, told him, that they would attend the House if it suited them, but they did not know whether they would or not; and they, though repeatedly requested by him, would not satisfy him whether they would attend.

RESOLVED, That the said *Robert Alexander* and *Thomas Jones*, are guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of this House, and Contempt against the same, by their Answer to the Officer deputed by the Serjeant at Arms to serve the Order of this House of the 13th of *October 1770*.

ORDERED, That the Serjeant at Arms, attending this House, do forthwith take into his Custody, the Bodies of *Robert Alexander* and *Thomas Jones*, and have them immediately at the Bar of this House, to answer a Breach of the Privilege of this House, and Contempt against the same, by their Answer to the Officer, deputed by the Serjeant at Arms, to serve the Order of this House of the 13th of *October 1770*.

William