

A Bill, entitled, *An Act for the directing the Sale of the Lands of John Stone Hawkins, late of Prince-George's County, deceased, for the Payment of the Debts of the said John Stone Hawkins,* was read the First and Second Time, by an especial Order, passed, and sent to the Upper House, with the engrossed Bills N^o. 29, 30, by Mr. Moale and Mr. Contee.

The Petition of *John Stuart and Duncan Campbell* was read.

ORDERED, That the same be referred to the Consideration of a Committee, and that they do examine the Matter thereof, and report the same as it shall appear to them to the House; and Mr. Moale, Mr. Risteau, Mr. Deye, and Mr. Johnson, are appointed a Committee accordingly; and they have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

The Petition of *Alexander Symmer* was read the First and Second Time and rejected.

Benedict Calvert, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker the Paper Bills N^o. 29, 30, severally endorsed: "By the Upper House of Assembly, November 22d, 1771: The engrossed Bill, whereof this is the Original, read and assented to.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho."

And the Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower Jane Ridgely, Executrix of Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely, late of Anne-Arundel County, deceased, to convey the Land therein mentioned;* thus endorsed: "By the Upper House of Assembly, November 22d, 1771: Read the First and Second Time, by an especial Order, and will pass.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho."

Which last mentioned Bill was read here and passed for engrossing.

Mr. Paca brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following engrossed Address.

T O H I S E X C E L L E N C Y

R O B E R T E D E N, E s q; G O V E R N O R O F M A R Y L A N D,

The humble ADDRESS of the House of DELEGATES.

May it please your Excellency,

OUR indispenfible Duty to check the Exercise of such Powers as are incompatible with the permanent Security of Property and the constitutional Liberty of the Subject, has constrained us, in the Course of this Session, to take into our Consideration your Excellency's Proclamation of the 26th Day of November last, relative to Officers Fees, and the Instruction of the 24th Day of the same Month, under the Great Seal, ascertaining the Fees of the Land-Office; and on the most sedate Reflection, we have come into several Resolutions, Copies of which we beg Leave now to lay before you.

The like Proclamation published in the Year 1733, agitated and disjointed this Province till the Year 1747, and the Evils which were thereby occasioned ought strongly to have dissuaded from any Attempt again to exercise such Power. When, from some Proceedings in the Land-Office, in the Time of the last Assembly, the late Lower House were apprehensive that Government entertained a Design, in Case the several Branches of the Legislature should not agree in the Regulation of Officers Fees, to attempt establishing them by Proclamation, they, in an Address to your Excellency, asserted "the Proprietary has no Right, Sir, either by himself or with the Advice of his Council, to establish or regulate the Fees of Office, and could we persuade ourselves you could possibly entertain a different Opinion, we should be bold to tell your Excellency, that the People of this Province ever will oppose the Usurpation of such a Right;" to which your Excellency was pleased to answer, in your Message of the 20th Day of November, "that his Lordship's Authority had not yet interposed in the Regulation of the Fees of Officers, nor had you any Reason to imagine that it would interpose in such a Manner as to justify a regular Opposition to it." From whence, and your Excellency's Declaration in the same Message, "that it had been the Object of your anxious Attention, and was your very earnest Wish, to cultivate an amicable Understanding with the Representatives of the People of Maryland, with the Assurance, that you should, on every Occasion, pay a due Regard to their Rights, and that you should never countenance the illegal Exactions of any Officers, nor submit to any Usurpation which might essentially endanger that constitutional Balance of counteraiding Powers, so necessary to the Protection of the People and the Preservation of the publick Peace." The good People of this Province, although they might commend the Solitude of their Delegates, had great Reason to imagine their Apprehensions were ill grounded, especially, when it was remembered, that your Excellency, in your First Speech to the late Assembly, was pleased to express that you were sensible you should be judged of by your Actions, and not by any Assurances you might then give the Two Houses of your future Conduct; to which Test you most readily submitted. But after the Sense of the late House, so plainly expressed, and within a shorter Time after your Excellency's last Message to that House than the Resolution could well be formed, your Excellency's Proclamations were distributed and published, altogether, as we apprehend, unconstitutional in the Matter, and shadowed in the Manner with the assigned Reason to prevent Extortion by the Officers, in Imitation of the Practice of arbitrary Kings, who in their Proclamations, which have been declared illegal, generally covered their Designs with the specious Pretence of publick Good.

Your Excellency in your said Message having been pleased to tell the late Lower House, "His Lordship has, I think, the clearest Right to dispose of his real Estate upon such Terms as he may think proper; to direct the formal Ofservances in making Titles to his Grants, and to

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