

“ so far as you might be concerned in his Lordship’s Authority interposing in any Regulation of the Fees of Officers, you should take good Care to act on mature Consideration, and that what you should judge to be right and just, would be the only Dictate by which you should be determined;” yet we cannot but be apprehensive that you issued that Proclamation, and pass that other Instrument under the Great Seal, on the Advice of some of those, whose Interest in the Fees thus attempted to be illegally established, ought to have excluded them from your Excellency’s Confidence, in all Things relative to the Fees of Office. We therefore earnestly entreat your Excellency to quiet the Minds of the good People of this Province, by speedily withdrawing the said Proclamation, as well as the said other Instrument establishing Fees in the Land-Office; and that you will be pleased to make known to us the Names of those ill Advisers, who have daringly presumed thus to tread on the invaluable Rights of the Freemen of Maryland.

On reading whereof, the Question was put, That the House do assent to the same? Resolved in the Affirmative.

For the A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messieurs	{	Buchanan,	Smallwood;	Risteau,	Hall,	So. Wright,
		Kinggold,	Harrison,	Deye,	Paca,	Earle,
		Johnson,	Ware,	Ward,	Tilghman,	Lockett,
		Chase,	Adams,	Beall,	Thomas,	Wootton,
		Mackall,	Richardson,	Tyler,	Chamberlaine,	Beatty,
		Weems,	Moale,	Contee,	T. Wright,	Hagar.
Grahame,						

For the N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs Gresham, Hammond, Baxter.

Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, entitled, *An Act for the directing the Sale of the Lands of Sohn Stone Hawkins, late of Prince George’s County, deceased, for the Payment of the Debts of the said John Stone Hawkins;* thus introduced: “ By the Upper House of Assembly, Nov. 22, 1771: Read the First and Second Time by an especial Order, and will pass with the Amendments annexed.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho.”

“ After the Word “ several” in the 2d Line of the Fourth Page, insert the Word “ Claims,” and strike out the Word “ Claims” in the Third Line of the same Page. After the Word “ Hawkins” in the 1st Line of the last Page, add as follows, viz. “ Saving to the said Heirs of John Stone Hawkins the Liberty of shewing Cause, if any the said Heirs have, or can shew to the Chancellor of this Province for the Time being, at any Time within Six Months after the said Heirs shall arrive at the Age of Twenty-one Years, why the Lands and Premises above-mentioned ought not to have been sold, as herein is directed; and upon such Cause shewn to the Satisfaction of the said Chancellor, then and in such Case this Act shall be void, any Clause, Matter or Thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding.”

Which was read; and the Amendments proposed by the Upper House were read and agreed to, and the Bill passed for engrossing.

Mr. Grahame, from the Conference, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Paper.

THE Lower House framed the Bill, entitled, “ *An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty’s Customs, and for the Limitation of Officers Fees,*” which is the Subject of the present Conference, on a comprehensive View of the Subject, and in the most adequate Manner in their unbiassed Judgment, to answer the valuable Purposes of it, which are to regulate and improve the Staple, and to facilitate and encourage Trade, for the mutual Advantage of the Planter and Merchant, whose Safety, Connection and Convenience have been equally consulted; and to regulate the Clergy’s Dues, and Officers and Lawyers Fees; in which the much altered Circumstances of the Province, the very great Increase of the Profits of the Offices, many Abuses in the Charges of Fees, and the Circumstances and Numbers of the Inhabitants have been attended to, and they flatter themselves that they have been guided by the Rules of immutable Justice and the soundest Policy. A different Mode of Proceeding having in the last Session proved ineffectual to bring about an Agreement on a like Bill, they came into this Conference, proposed by the Upper House, before any particular Objections to the depending Bill were pointed out, in hopes that Reason and Argument might conciliate the Sentiments of the Two Houses. You proposed several Alterations in the Bill; some of them have been acceded to. The Points which now remain unsettled are these, viz.

- I. The Manner of putting Inspectors Bonds in Suit.
- II. Inspectors rechosen to give timely Notice; or failing thereof, to be considered as an actual Refusal.
- III. Time of closing the Inspection limited by our Bill to the 20th of August, you contend ought to be the last of July.
- IV. Penalties and Mode of Recovery.
- V. Whether the Alternative be extended to Costs of Suit.
- VI. Officers Fees, including the Time of Execution and Payment.
- VII. Clergy’s Dues.