

to the People, by their being denied Access to some of the greatest Offices belonging to the Courts of Justice, and refused their necessary Business there, without the severe Terms of entering into Bonds with Judgments, some for Fees before they become due, and others with Conditions in large Sums on purpose to have Recoveries in the Courts, where the Fees will arise to Ten or more Times the value of the principal Debt, which by the Laws of this Province might be recovered at the expence of Half a Crown, and those Bonds yearly sent to the Sheriffs with discretionary Powers to put them in Suit, who, by Experience we find, have in many instances made the worst use of those Powers, in order to create Fees for themselves, as well as to the Party who takes such Bonds.

The Power of late assumed by his Lordship of Settling and Ascertaining the Fees of the Officers in the Courts of Justice by way of Proclamation, is what we cannot submit to without prostituting the Rights of his Majesty's Subjects within this Province; we do not know that ever the Kings of *Great Britain* exercised their Prerogative in such Case, especially since the happy Revolution, and on this Occasion we intreat your Excellency to consider that part of the Royal Charter, which directs, that no Ordinances made by the Proprietary, or his Heirs, their Magistrates, or Officers, without consent of the Freemen or their Delegates, shall affect the Right or Interest of any Person or Persons of, or in their Life, Member, Freehold, Goods or Chattels, which Clause is Consonant to the great Charter, to the Benefit wherof we hope we shall not be denied a Right. However, to avoid all Disputes on this Head, we had with great Pains and Application prepared a Bill for settling those Fees, and made them considerably higher than those of our Neighbouring Colonies, yet we cannot obtain the Assent of his Lordship's Council to the same, without such Conditions as would in our Apprehension prove destructive to the People, for Reasons your Excellency cannot be a Stranger to, *viz.* that of making it a perpetual Law; and how reasonable it is that the Gentlemen of that Board, who without any Warrant from the Royal Charter, assume a Negative on the Proceedings of the Delegates of this Province, and whose Seats at that Board, are only at the Will of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, and who (with a single Exception only) are composed of such as hold the chief Offices and Posts of ~~Power~~ in the Government during Pleasure, the exorbitancy of whose Fees illegally charged, and the oppressive manner of Extorting them from the People, was what was endeavoured by that Bill to be Remedied; how far we say, they ought to be Judges and have a Negative in an Affair wherein they are so deeply interested, we leave to our Superiors and the World to judge: Whilst we are upon this Article of
Fees