

By the Com^{ee} of Laws:

To the Hon^{ble} the house of Delegates, March 17th 1701/2

Wee have considered the matters comitted to our charge and

1st As to Law Acertaining officers fees wee have veiwed and considered them and being informed that some persons concerned intend to make some offers on that Subject. Referred therefore till wee heare what will be said by them.

2nd As by the peticōn of Needles Sherwood and others wee find by undoubted assurance—

1. That the paper is the hand wrighteing of Edward Mann.

2^{dly} That the paper has all the esentials of a will except being signed in the presence of three witnesses as the Stat: of the 29^o of King Charles the 2nd requires.

3rd Wee have noe account that ever Mann altered his resolutions in that paper contained.

4^{thly} The paper contains a fatherly inclination to distribute his estate among his children without giveing one all to the prejudice of the rest but that this fatherly intention will be frustrate unless confirmed by this Gen^l Assembly.

Therefore upon the whole matter we are of opinion the peticōn may be granted soe far as to confirme that paper according to the import of it in as firme and Ample manner as if the same had been signed in the presence of three or more Witnesses, according to the forme of the Stat: aforesaid.

All which is humbly Submitted to consideration of the house by us.

Ken: Cheseldyn. chairman.

Resolved that this house doe concurr with the reporte of the Committee in their opinion and that the Same be sent to his Ex^{cy} the Governour and his Majestys Hon^{ble} Councill.

W^{ch} s^d reporte was endorsed, viz.

March 17th 1701/2

By the house of Delegates.

This Reporte being heere read this house concurs with the opinion of the Com^{ee} therein and refers the Same together wth the Originall paper and peticōn to the consideration of his Ex^{cy} and hon^r Councill.

Signed p order.
W Taylard Clk. house Dell: