

As to what relates to one Person having several Offices it was the Opinion of the Conferrees that if any Person held the Chan<sup>s</sup> Office, the Commissary Gen<sup>ls</sup> Office Secretary's Office, Sheriffs Office or Clerk of the County Courts' Office together with any other Office or Place of Profit it is as an Aggrievance: And that the House of Delegates should address the Council Board to redress it as far as in them lies And as to that which relates to the Sheriffs and others buying of Offices the Conferrees then agreed it was a great Aggrievance and it was then the Opinion of the Conferrees that for the future the Justices of the County Courts in March Court before the Sheriff's Time expires should nominate two or three persons for Sheriffs out of which the Governor and Council should appoint one for Sheriff We further humbly represent to the House that those 2 seem to be the only Aggrievances amongst all that were then offered that now require Redress both which we are of Opinion are still Aggrievances to the Province And it is further offered as an Aggrievance to this Committee that for want of an effectual Redress of that which relates to the Sheriffs who are as it were the several Counties Treasurers and on whose Credit and good Demeanour depends the Credit and Interest of all those that act in publick Stations as well as of all the other Inhabitants and which therefore calls for a most speedy and effectual Redress, There have happened very great Burthens and Inconveniencies to many of the Counties in this Province and particularly to Ann Arundel County from whom it has been offered that the present Sheriff has farmed or made over the Pfits of his Office contrary to the Form of the Statutes of England in such Cases provided, That he is slack and very dilatory in Payments and refuses to accept Notes drawn upon him by those that have publick Allowances in his Hands unless he has a Salary or Gratuity for so doing which no other Sheriff in Maryland has ever yet been known to scruple and has generally made those concerned with him for Tobacco so uneasy in his Payments that the Price of all publick or County Allowances of Tobacco in his Hands has been much lessened to the great Damage of all the Inhabitants especially of the poor Petitioners That tho' the Act of Assembly limits the Continuances of Sheriffs for 3 years and no longer yet by such clandestine secret underhand Practices the same person continues Sheriff in all Respects but Title for many years together and by that means continues his uneasinesses to the People. All which Things we find tend very much to the lessening the publick Credit and the Esteem of Tobacco and amount to a great Aggrievance. And we further humbly offer that those Things which have been so long Time found Aggrievances and yet remain unredressed

L. H. J.  
Lib. 41

p. 462