

one of the Clerks in the Office, said he believed it to be George Hamilton's Writing, being well acquainted with his Hand, Hamilton having some time before wrote in the Office with him. I then advised M<sup>r</sup> Lee to send for Hamilton, who was in Town, when he came into the Office, I shewed him the Record and asked him in the Presence of M<sup>r</sup> Lee, M<sup>r</sup> Sprigg, M<sup>r</sup> James Barrance, Thomas Landsdale, and John Lillie, Clerks in the Office, if he had made that Entry, he reply'd that he did not nor had ever seen it before. I endeavoured to persuade him to a Confession. M<sup>r</sup> Sprigg still declaring it to be his hand Writing, but he persisted in denying it. I then left the Office, and afterwards, on M<sup>r</sup> Lee's asking me how he should Act, I advised him to acquaint the Court of the Transaction, he said perhaps Hamilton might be prevail'd on to Confess the Fact to me, tho' he would not in the presence of so many Persons, that he would go to him and endeavour to persuade him to do it. A very short time after, and before I left the Court House, Hamilton came to me and said I acknowledge I entered that Deed upon Record myself, I asked him what could induce him to be guilty of so bad an Action, he Answered that if he had not been persuaded he should never have thought of doing it, but would not say by whom, we then parted. Immediately went to M<sup>r</sup> Lee and informed him of the Conversation that had passed, as also those who were present in the Office at the time Hamilton was first called on. M<sup>r</sup> Lee desired I would Advise him what I thought he had best do with Regard to the Record. I told him that by Hamilton's Confession it was no Record, and as there was Sufficient Evidence to Convict him on a Prosecution, I thought it best to have the Deed carefully erased out of the Record, and as Clerk I thought he could not let it remain there, especially as it might be done without any Prejudice to the Book, it being mostly on the inside of the Cover of it, and further told him it would be right to have it done in the Presence of some of the Persons that were present at the time Hamilton was called in the office, in Consequence of this Advice, he directed John Lillie one of the Clerks in the Office to take it out, and to be very careful in doing it. The next Morning M<sup>r</sup> Lee set off for England, after his departure I enquired of Lillie if he had complied with his Orders in erasing the Deed from the Record Book, he told me he had, and upon Examination I found it very carefully done, and without any Prejudice to the Book. At the next Assizes Hamilton and Lillie were presented, Hamilton for entering the Deed and Lillie, (who acted only in Obedience to M<sup>r</sup> Lee's order, and that from an Opinion it was Right) for erasing it. If any thing further should be required of me I shall Chearfully

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