

Session Access to the Lands-Records of this Province, and made large Ab-  
 Laws stracts therefrom of the Rights of vast Quantities of Land that  
 [Ch. VI, X, XIV, XVIII, XXI, XXII] have long continued in the peaceable and uninterrupted Possession of  
 of Acts this Honourable the Lord Proprietary, laid before his Lordship the  
 Session Abstract of several considerable Tracts of Land granted to one  
 printed in Vol. 35 of Thomas Cornwallis, Esq; formerly a Person residing within this  
 Archives, Province, (many of which Tracts have been Sold by the said  
 beginning at Thomas Cornwallis) pretending a Right thereto by Purchase or  
 p. 186] Descent; which Abstract was Signed John Evans, Attorney, as a  
 Person attesting the same to be true; whereas there was not any  
 Attorney in Maryland, nor hath been (if ever) in a great many  
 Years, of that Name; and never any that had Recourse to the Rec-  
 ords: So that the said Abstract appears evidently to be a Forgery  
 and Imposition.

And, forasmuch as it appears that during the Time of such his  
 the said Riddlesden's Access, there were some Parts of the Records  
 found cut out, and for some Defects of Assignments or in other  
 Measne Conveyances, which probably were occasioned by the male  
 Practice of the said Riddlesden, or such like evil-designing Persons.

And whereas the said Riddlesden has been known to personate  
 others, and has now produced sundry pretended Deeds of Sale to  
 several of the Clerks of the County-Courts to be recorded; and  
 made Demands of the Possessions of sundry Persons whose Lands  
 he pretends to have bought: And for that such Purchasing cannot  
 be free from the Imputation of Champerty; if made by real Deeds,  
 but that in Truth, the Deeds he pretends to hold by, are by the most  
 discerning Persons, and of the best Credit, justly suspected to be  
 forged: And for that it would be impracticable to detect such For-  
 gery, if the Deeds themselves should be withdrawn from such  
 Officers, so as to leave authentick Record thereof, without leav-  
 ing the original Deeds that the Hand-Writing of the pretended  
 Grantors may be seen: And for that it is easy for such a Person, by  
 calling himself by the Name of another, and executing a Deed by  
 such Name, to one of his Companions in a strange Place, to obtain  
 such fraudulent Deed to be witnessed by Men of good Credit, who  
 may (as they think) safely swear before a Magistrate, that they  
 p. 264 saw the Person signing, seal and deliver that Deed (tho' they may  
 be wholly nescient whether the Person so signing signs by his own  
 Name, or by the Name of One he so fraudulently personates,) and  
 by that Means obtain such Probat of false Deeds, as may make an  
 undoubted Evidence of a Title, after the original Deeds are de-  
 stroyed, which in this Case the said Vanhaesdonck Riddlesden may  
 easily do, if he has the Deeds redelivered him by the Clerks.

And whereas there is criminal Process out against him, on One  
 or more Indictments found against him in this Province some Years