

upon proofs such as deserve the correction sought for; we, therefore, intending to proceed graciously with our said servant, and to take great resolution of all such controversies, in regard that the said office is of our proper disposition, and the said William Mill, duly invested by our letters patent with it, as likewise upon other gracious motives, do command the said charges to be clearly dismissed; and the commissioners were also to enquire into the duties and fees of the office held by Mr. Mill, "by usage, or authentic precedents."—(Egerton Papers, p. 316.)

No. 6.—*Serjeant Hele's Case.—Promotion and Employment Claimed.*—Serjeant Hele had pretensions to the office of Master of the Rolls, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and James the 1st, and accused the Lord Keeper Ellesmere of opposing his pretensions from private enmity. It appears from the Egerton Papers, published by the Camden Society, that many details of this case are preserved at Bridgewater House; but the Society has printed only a petition from the Serjeant to the King, with two letters.

In the petition are the following passages, praying employment:—"I have served our late Queen and your Majesty, as a public magistrate, thirty years, and more; and in that time, never touched with any crime. I protest to God and your Majesty, I am innocent of any undue course. Since the last hearing of my cause before your Majesty's Privy Council, it is bruited underhand that I have dealt indirectly, that I am deeply fined, my profession and practice clean taken from me, with imprisonment.

"If your Majesty shall think me fit to do you any service, the scandal would be taken from me.—JOHN HELE."—(The Egerton Papers, p. 393.)

No. 7.—*Thomas Hodges' Case, 1722.—Appeal to Parliament.*—Thomas Hodges, Esq., petitioned against the Governor of Barbadoes, Lord Grey, charging him with mal-administration of justice. The Board of Trade reported that the charge was not substantiated. "And for any private injury the said Hodges might think he had sustained from the said Lord Grey during his government, he had his remedy at law, by virtue of an Act of Parliament lately passed, to punish governors of plantations in this kingdom, for crimes committed by them in the plantations."

Against this report Mr. Hodges petitioned the House of Commons, alleging that he had proved the truth of his complaint, but that the Board had covered the truths from his Majesty, and had affectually hindered him from any relief, prayed the consideration of the case by the House. A Committee was appointed, before which the Board of Trade made its defence; and the House of Commons resolved that Mr. Hodges had failed to make good his petition, which they voted vexatious and scandalous.—(Commons Journal, 1702, p. 764 and 884.)

No. 8.—*The Carolina Case.—Appeal to Parliament approved by the Crown.*—J. Boone petitioned the House of Lords concerning grievances in Carolina, and prayed that the deplorable state of the said colony might be taken into consideration, and such relief provided as should be proper. The Lords entertained the petition, and addressed the Crown, that her Majesty would graciously be pleased to find out, and prosecute, the most effectual means for the relief of the province, to which the Queen answered—"I thank the House for laying these matters so plainly before me; and I will do all in my power to relieve my subjects in Carolina, and protect their just rights."—(Lords Journal, 1705, p. 130, 151, and 153.)

No. 9.—*Appeal to Parliament.*—Thomas Stevens petitioned the House of Commons, charging the Trustees of Georgia with oppressing the colony, by using abuses—and praying redress. The House granted a Committee, by which his charge was reputed to be false, scandalous, and malicious; and the petitioner was reprimanded on his knees.—(Commons Journal.)