

issue; Whereupon Mr. Cooper did Enter such an Order without any Debate or Consent of the rest of the Commissioners." Since this was their first fault and the original cause of disobedience proceeded from Holliday, the two offenders were dismissed "with a Caution to have a Care how they Offended in the Like Nature again."²²

On the following day Holliday, Barton, Small and White appeared and said that "they find they have been in an Error, for which they are very Sorry and do humbly beg pardon." In particular Holliday said "that he understanding that he was Represented the only refractory person in causing the said Order of his Excellency to be disobeyed, but does averr that all the rest of the Justices which were then upon the Bench did Assent and give their Opinion in the matter as well as himself which he says the rest of the Justices now present can affirm, who do affirm the same to be true." These four offenders were let off with the same caution, but it was ordered that William Hutchison, who did not appear, be dismissed from office. The Board, unwilling to put the county to the charge of a new commission, ordered the remaining seven justices to officiate for the present under the old commission.²³

Other orders of the Governor and Council covered a wide range of subjects. On January 25, 1695/6 it was ordered that masters of vessels entering the province secure any persons enticing away their officers or seamen and deliver them to the next justice of the peace who was to order such persons conveyed to the governor at Annapolis to be proceeded against according to law.²⁴ On July 7, 1696 it was ordered that the sheriffs give notice to the several justices and vestrymen within their respective precincts "that the said Justices and Vestrymen take Care to make and Cause to be made Strict inquiry in all parts of their respective County's and parishes what persons have been married by Lycenses Since his Excellencies arrivall in this province, and who have marryed without Lycenses etc. or asked to Church; And that the said Account be given to the Severall Vestry and County Clerks who are to make an Exact List there of and Return the same unto his Excellency . . . by the 29th day of September next, under penalty of being proceeded against for contempt." A Council entry for December 16, 1697 indicates that the justices and all the vestrymen of Prince Georges County, among others, were in contempt for not causing a list of marriages to be returned.²⁵

By a September 18, 1696 order of the Council the sheriffs of the several counties were ordered to take "under the hand of the Master, Mistress, Dame or Overseer of every Family House or Plantation within their respective precincts an Account in writing of all the Tythable persons there Residing at the Same time they Usually go about to Collect the Leavys" and where there was any dispute about the age of any person, a return be made by the sheriff of the names of such persons unto the justices of the county courts in order to be adjudged.²⁶ In December 1696 the sheriffs were ordered to present to the justices and grand juries of the several counties and to obtain their opinion upon a petition for delaying the sailing of the Maryland fleet until March and upon a proposed representation to the King in Council that the province of Pennsylvania did "generally harbour and Entertain Privateers and Receive and Encourage all manner of Runaway Seamen, Servants and negroes, to the very great Grievance of the Province [of Maryland] and the

22. 20 *id.* 515-16.

23. 20 *id.* 516.

24. 20 *id.* 394. *Cf.* the duties of justices in Talbot, Kent, Cecil and Baltimore Counties in connection with persons suspected of attempting to cross into Pennsylvania. 20 *id.* 394-95. For those attempting to cross into Virginia see 20 *id.* 396.

25. 20 *id.* 454, 580.

26. 20 *id.* 488.