

and back to his Excellency which that the same had been formerly offered in Bude Town in Calvert County the 11 of January 1697 yet he is pleased to say that for the more solemnity thereof he will have the said Commission read in publick

Together with these Excellencies the Lords Justices Instructions the same mentioned also a letter by his Excellency received from the honourable the Commissioners of his Majestys Customs and a printed Act of Parliament for Regulating duties in the Plantation Trade enclosed and that he intends to take the said Oath again publicly being also pleased to signify that he had ordered a copy of the said Instructions to be prepared in order to be sent to each County of the Province to be lodged amongst the rest of the County Records together with a Book of Rates and forementioned Act of Parliament and likewise thought it may be proper to send a copy of the Oath by him taken to each of the said Counties by which means the people would receive such effectual notice and testimony that they should not hereafter plead Ignorance in any thing of that Nature all which was very well approved of by the Board and ordered that the said Instructions Book of Rates act of Parliament and Oath be accordingly sent to each County of the Province for the use of the said Counties and Intent aforesaid

The before request in behalf of Colonel Munian Beales Warrant of Renewry being deferred the execution till some further time was ordered to by his Excellency and his Majesty by his Honourable Council

Then came Mr Edward Heyland Mr Richard Highman from the House and by Order thereof presented Mr Thomas Hicks Doctor Jacob Lockerman and Mr Walter Campbell to the Board to have the Oaths by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy administered to them when upon the said Oaths were administered to the said Gentlemen in their Capacities as they were returned by Francis Delegates for Frederick County and they likewise subscribed the Test

Came likewise Colonel John Thompson and Mr James Saunders who bring the following Message from the House

By the House of Delegates March the 11th 1697

Forasmuch as a doubt hath arisen in the House concerning the due ness of the Election of the Gentlemen appearing as Delegates for Baltimore County we desire his Honour the Chancellor will upon oath examine Thomas Browne Thomas Roberts Francis Robinson and Nicholas Fitzsimons subscribers to the said Indenture and what other persons that can give their Testimony therein in relation to the said Election and Certify the same to this House

Signed by Order W Bladen Clerk of the House

Samuel Brown Edward Handly and no more Persons appearing

In answer to which the following Message by his Excellency the Governor and Council in a Family March the 11th 1698

In answer to the Houses request about Baltimore County Delegates the following Persons were Examined and sworn before the honourable Col. Henry Jones Chancellor in Council concerning the Election of the said Delegates viz Thomas Browne Thomas Roberts Francis Robinson Nicholas Fitzsimons Samuel Brown and Edward Handly who upon their Oaths do severally say that Mr George Ashman Mr Thomas Staley Mr John Ferry and Mr John Hall by Indenture returned to serve as Delegates for Baltimore County this present Family were truly and duly Elected by the Freeholders of the said County without any Opposicion

Signed by Order Hen Denton Clerk

The honourable Sir Thomas Lawrence came

The said Answer was returned back by the Gentlemen sent from the House

Produced by his Excellency and read a copy of Articles of Charge Given in by Captain