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Guard by against his Excellency and several other papers relating to that matter which is thought fit that the same be laid before the House together with a copy of a letter by his Excellency received from the honourable John Foley Esq^r one of the Clerks of his Majesty's honourable Privy Council in relation to the Revenues having been here read

His Excellency is pleased to demand of the honourable Colonel George Robotham & Col^l John Addison who had not heard the said Articles before read what they had to say concerning the said Articles who made answer that they never knew or heard of any such matters as are there expressed against his Excellency but do take the said papers to be altogether malicious scandalous and foolish

Major Whittington's Account about the Bounds betwixt his Jurisdiction and Pennsylvania produced and read as also a Letter from the Navy Office to Esq^r Knolly in relation to furnishing Naval Stores &c^o a letter from Esq^r Neal to his Excellency of the 8th of 7th mo 1697 touching Coins &c^o and a Certificate from the Ordnance Office dated the 13th of January 1695 about 100 Barrels of powder and 200 Snaps of Musquets sent to his Excellency Governor Copley &c^o

All which several papers are Ordered to be laid before the House together with the deposition of Thomas Browne about Cornelius Nichols the petition from the Burgesses of Potomack and Baltimore County Mr^r Tutman's letter to his Excellency about Romish Priests - Lawrence Garry and Daniel Carrin's petition for the Case Keyser's place James Baker's Petition about the Perquisites of his place and Mr^r Rachel Hewell's petition for payment of the Arrears of the 4th of Poll to her deceased Husband

✓ March the 12 1698 ✓

The Council here and were present as Yesterday except Sir Thomas Lawrence

Came from the House of Delegates Colonel Thompson and Mr^r Ferry and present Mr^r William Taylour one of the Delegates chosen for Saint Mary's City in order to be sworn who accordingly had the Oath appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy administered unto him by the honourable Col^l Robotham Thomas Terch and Thomas Brooke Esq^r which he took and afterwards subscribed to the Test

His Excellency was pleased to go up to the State House attended with his Majesty's honourable Council in order to have the Commission for swearing his Excellency publicly read together with their Excellencies the Lord's Justice Instructions relating to Trade &c^o where Mr^r Speaker and the several members of the House his Excellency the Council & the members of the House being severally seated he is pleased to acquaint them with the occasion of his coming telling them that tho' he had taken the same Oath before at Battle Town yet it being a thing of such consequence he thought fit that the said Commission should be read here publicly and to take the Oath again which was accordingly done

Afterwards was read their Excellencies the Lord's Justice Instructions relating to the Trade and several other papers Ordered to be laid before the House and were delivered to the Clerk of the House

Then his Excellency told them that he had one thing more to communicate unto them which tho' he was sorry to trouble them with yet by Reason the matter in part seemed to reflect upon the whole Government he therefore thought it necessary for their cognizance and thereupon produced a Copy of a letter writ by one Captain Leonard Sly to one of the Lords of his Majesty's most honourable Council by way of Contempt against his Excellency which was read together with a certain paper formed into Articles of Charge against him which Order together with several other papers relating to that matter delivered to the Clerks for the perusal of the House

His Excellency being pleased to shew Mr^r Speaker and the members the several Offices and Rooms in the New State House Returned afterwards to the Council Chamber