

P. R. O.  
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Orders of the Councill of State.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1653.

On reading the petition of Colonell Samuel Mathews Agent for Virginia directed to the Lord Protector. It is ordered and declared in Councill by his Highnes that a Letter be prepared to the Governor and Generall Assembly of that Colony, to encourage them and to establish the present Governor till further order. And that the other part of the said petition be referred to M<sup>r</sup> Strickland and S<sup>r</sup> An: A: Cooper who calling to them M<sup>r</sup> Winslow Coll: Mathews and such others acquainted with the affaires of that plantation as they shall thinke fitt, are to consider how the same may for the future be settled to its advantage, benefitt and security, and to the service of this Commonwealth, as alsoe how the questions betwixt the Lord Baltimore and the people of Virginia, concerning the Bounds claymed by them respectively may with most Justice and equity be determined to which purpose they are to send for all papers referring therunto which were in the hands of the late Committee of the Navy or of any other and thereupon to state the whole matter, and report the same to his Highness.

Saturday 31<sup>th</sup> December 1653 afternoone.

A Letter prepared for the Governor and Generall Assembly of Virginia was now read and approved of.

To the Governor and Generall Assembly of  
the English Plantation of Virginia.

Gentlemen,

Colonell Mathews the Agent for Virginia, hath diligently attended the dispatch of some businesses referring to the peace and settlement of that Colony, The perfecting whereof hath been obstructed by the many publique affaires here depending. And now it haveing pleased God (who is the great disposer of all humane occurrencies) in his great wisdom, and according to the Councill of his owne will, to alter the Government of this Commonwealth, by entrusting the same unto a Lord Protector and successive Trienniall Parliaments. And Oliver Cromwell Captayne Generall of all the forces of this Commonwealth, being declared the present Lord Protector thereof (as you may perceive by the platforme of Government herewith sent you, and the proclamation thereunto annexed, which you are forthwith after receipt hereof, to cause to be published) address hath been made unto his Highnes by Colonell Mathews petition, for the determining of these matters, which have so long depended Whereupon his Highnes hath been pleased, to put into an effectuall way the speedy resolution of these ques-