

P. R. O. M^r Sayer to Lord Baltimore
 Colonial
 Papers.

31. December 1689.

My Lord,

Since my last to your Lordship (which was in Johnson the verriest rogue that ever crost saltwater) there has not bin a more tragick comedy of rebellion acted, since the royall bounty of King James and King Charles of blessed memory bestowed upon your Ancestors the Charter of this Province of Maryland; to lay itt downe in all its acts, and scenes would be too tedious, there being some of the actors (whom God send safely to arrive) will give your Lordship an orall relation of all. I shall onely trouble your Lordship with some few particulars, which they (being forc'd to abscond) may not have notice of. As soon as the noise came into our County, that our Masinella Coade had gott at the head of five or six hundred men, Griff Jones sends a note to Clayland (then preaching) that he and his auditory must come away presently to the Court house which they did; where this villanous rascal persuaded the poor silly mobile that if they did not sign to that paper (a copy of which your Ldpp hath) they should all certainly loose their estates: Upon this our County (who were before as quiet as lambs) gott to such a head, and crying that all their throats should be cutt by the Papists, that if Coade's order for disbandeing of everybody then in armes had not come to Will: Combes, our timorous Magistrates could never have quietted 'em. With this order came up his declaration, which was read att our Court house the fourth day following which was the 15th of August, all people being warned to come and hear it by the cleark of our County Nicholas Lowe; Coll: Coursey being likewise invited for his advice by M^r Robotham who accordingly came, and advised them to lett no papers be read that came from any of the rebels, except they would permitt him, or that M^r Robotham himself would paraphrase, and lett the people know what damn'd falsities were contained in 'em; butt M^r Robotham reply'd, that if any body should contradict anything, in that humor the people were in, they should have all their braines knockt out; says Coll: Coursey, what did you send for me for, if you won't take my advice; would you have me hear a company of lyes tould against My Lord Baltimore, to whom I have sworn fidelity, and so have you; if your conscience will, mine won't permitt me to doe itt. After a great many arguments the Court was call'd, but noe Coll: would appeare with 'em; In short, my Lord, the declaration was read, with Coad's other orders by Nick Lowe, after which M^r Robotham (without mentioning the goodness or badness of the things read) asks them how they would dispose of the