

charged, and will then in convenient time, and as good method Lib. R. R. R. as he can render his reasonable answer and proofes in his defence.

Ordered thereupon by this board that the said Blackiston, have time till the next Provinciaall Court w^{ch} will beginn the last Tuesday in Aprill next; to make his answer and produce what Evidences he cann in his Defence; and that in ord^r thereunto, summons for what Evidences he shall nominate be at any time granted him by any one of the Councill, and that copy of his said Lett^r be delivered him by the Clk of the Councill if required.

The said Blackistones Lett^r and his L^{sps} answer thereto being both read were ordered to be entred as followeth (viz^t)

M^r Ne^a Blackistons Lre. to the Com^{rs} cont^a a charge ag^t this Govern^t

May it please your Hono^{rs}

I hope my Lett^r of the 10th of Novemb: last sent via Virginia, and my Duplicate of the same in another Ship, is come safe to your hands, since which I mett with diverse Testimonyes & experiencies of the truth of what Intelligence I therein gave to your Hon^{rs}. The most horrid Murder of his Maj^{ties} Collecto^r here, hath been and is daily seconded, with very apparent tokens of approvem^t: both from Talbott the bloody malefacto^r and all his adherents, who are busie in extenuateing his crime, and have conspired and procured his Escape from prison in Virginia, and from thence transported him into Maryland, where he remaines publickly knowne at his owne p. 301 house; There's little hopes of his being brought to Justice, that he may receive condign punishm^t there being a litterall Intercourse and correspondence betweene him and some principall Magistrates of this Province, and noe effectuall course taken for his apprehension, which I humbly conceive may be a strong argument, and signall token to yo^r Hono^{rs} of the ill and wicked carriage of things here, ever since M^r Rousbys murder; I have been continually discountenanced and obstructed in my proceedings in his Maj^{ties} Service by the chiefe persons left and Deputed for the Governm^t of this Province; they have conteained & disowned my Commission, to me and burnt my Certificates to Masters of Shipp, and have diverted and disswadad Masters of Shipp from applying themselves any waies to me, and soe have Entred cleared and dispatched Shipp without my notice or privity, By which meanes I am certain severall Transgresso^{rs} have escaped, and