

His L<sup>sp</sup>: attended accordingly and then putt in his answer in writing. Lib. R. R. R.  
P. 305

The Lord Baltmores Answer to the Complaints of M<sup>r</sup> Nehemiah Blakiston mentioned in his Lett<sup>r</sup> to the Com<sup>rs</sup> of his Maj<sup>ties</sup> customs dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of Aprill 1685:

It plainly appeareth by a Lett<sup>r</sup> from the Governo<sup>r</sup> of Virginia to the Deputies of Maryland, that the escape made by George Talbott out of prison was occasioned by the corruption of the guard, and not procured by any Persons of Maryland, as is falsely suggested in the Lett<sup>r</sup> of the said Blackiston. And that as soone as the Governo<sup>r</sup> of Virginia had given notice to the Deputies of Maryland of the said Talbotts escape; especiall care was taken immediatly by them for his apprehension, as appeareth by the Hue and crye sent out into all parts of the Province, besides what other waies & meanes could be used for the speedy bringing in of the said Talbott, who never was publickly seen at his owne plantation (though the contrarie is affirmed by the said Blackiston) but alwaies kept himself out in the mountaines to the northward, untill at last he resolved to Surrender himself to the deputies of Maryland, where now he is under a strong guard, to be disposed off as his Maj<sup>ties</sup> shall think fitt.

His L<sup>sp</sup> is very confident, M<sup>r</sup> Blackiston has noe just cause to complain of his being discountenanced in the execution of his place, for that he very well knowes his Officers dare not presume to offer any contempt, nor shew the least disrespect either to his pson or commission nor would they p<sup>r</sup>sume to dissuade Masters of vessells from p<sup>r</sup>senting themselves and their certificates to his Maj<sup>ties</sup> Officers, His L<sup>sp</sup> haveing long since ordered that they should apply themselves to the Kings Collecto<sup>r</sup> as well as to his owne, and such was the practice whilest M<sup>r</sup> Christopher Rousby was liveing, and the truth of this may be easily knowne, from severall Masters of ships, and others now in Towne; After M<sup>r</sup> Christopher Rousby was soe unfortunately killed by George Talbott, the Dep<sup>ties</sup> of Maryland did p<sup>r</sup>sume to appoint Coll W<sup>m</sup> Digges, and Major Nich<sup>s</sup> Sewall, (both of them persons of good repute and Estates) to Officiate as Collect<sup>r</sup> of his Maj<sup>ties</sup> Dues, untill another person could be appointed by the Com<sup>rs</sup> of his Maj<sup>ties</sup> Customs, and this they thought their duty to take care to doe, that his Maj<sup>ties</sup> affaires might receive the less p<sup>r</sup>judice by that wicked Act of the said Talbott, and his L<sup>sp</sup> doubts not but the said persons soe appointed will give a just acco<sup>t</sup> of their proceedings to the Com<sup>rs</sup> of his Maj<sup>ties</sup> customs. P. 306