

Lib. H. D. That Considering this will be the only business which will be to be lay'd before the Assembly and that it is now a busy time with most p^rsons upon the ffleets going out besides the Unseasonable time of the Year so that it might be very inconvenient for them to meet together at this time and to save the Charge to the Countrey of calling an Assembly it is therefore the Unanimous Opinion of this Board that it will be most for his Ma^{ty}s Service upon so suddain an Occasion as this that a State of the whole Case be sent to the Sheriff of each respective County of the Province Comanding them to shew the same to all the Burgesses Justices, Grand Juries, merch^{ts} & Trading men in the severall County's (especially to the Justices and Grand Jury's in march Court next) for them to give their Opinion therein under their hands respectively a Return whereof is afterwards to be made by the s^d Sherriffs unto the Port of Annapolis with all possible Speed hereby Signifying that it is the opinion of his Ex^{ty} and of all the members of his Ma^{ty}s hon^{ble} Council (now p^rsent) that if in Case the Comodore should now sayle & leave so many Ships behind that then the rest that are left behind be not permitted to go before the 15th of April next (and not otherwise then in a ffleet together) by Reason that if they should stay till another Convoy Comes they must be fforced to remain all Sum^r through which means their Voyage would be totally over thrown by their men falling Sick, dyeing Runing away and such like unavoidable Accidents according as it hath happened to some of their men already the Masters being left to make Choice of a Comodore to be Commissionated in like manner as was done last Year to whom the Severall Masters are to give Bond to follow such Comodores Instructions and directions hereby appointing that all the Ships that are left behind and lye up the Bay meet together by the s^d 15th of Apr^l next at the mouth of Petuxant River and all the Ships up Potomock at the mouth of St^t Maries River in Ord^r for their Sayling away in a ffleet together for England under the Conduct and Comand of the Comodore for that End and purpose to be Commissionated as afores^d and as to what Scattering Ships shall be left after the s^d 15th day of Aprill and the Sayling of the s^d ffleet that the same be not permitted to Depart the Province or sayle until further Ord^r whereof the severall Cott^s and navall Officers are to take due notice and take Bond of the respective Masters (with sufficient security) which by them shall be Clear'd) before the s^d 15th of Aprill whereby they may be Obliged to meet and sayle together as is afore directed. The Sherriffs are also hereby Required to Signifye to all such p^rsons to whom they shall p^rsent this, that those