

Lib. H. D. these parts may be Obliged to Stay till all the Ships Coming into this Province can be got ready to Joyn the f fleet in Virg<sup>a</sup> or that a particular Convoy be appointed for this Province without which it is morally impossible that the Ships Trading here should be Capable of getting Ready so soon as the Ships in Virg<sup>a</sup> for the Reasons assigned especially when such weather happens as has done this winter.

The hon<sup>ble</sup> Coll: George Robotham having had the p<sup>r</sup>usal of the fforegoing Proceedings does well approve off and Agree to the same.

By his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> the Govern<sup>r</sup> & Councill &<sup>ca</sup> ffeb<sup>ry</sup> 21<sup>th</sup> 1696<sup>7</sup>

Ordr<sup>abt</sup> forwarding the dispatch of the fleet &<sup>ca</sup> Vpon the Receipt of a Letter this day from the hon<sup>ble</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Charles Wager Comodore of the Virg<sup>a</sup> and Maryland f fleet unto his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> sent and directed as also another directed unto the Commanders of the Severall Merch<sup>t</sup> Ships in the severall Rivers of Maryland both dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of this instant ffebruary which Came by Express thereby Signifying his having prolong'd the time of Cap<sup>t</sup> Daniells Sayling hence until the 25<sup>th</sup> day of march next &<sup>ca</sup> By which time it is hoped the greatest part of the Ships here may be ready to goe with him to joyn the Comodore in Virg<sup>a</sup> Ordered therefore as it is hereby Ordered that all imaginable assistance be given by the People of this Governm<sup>t</sup> in forwarding their dispatch accordingly Comanding all Officers Military & Civill to Aid and Assist them therein and that the Coopers do more Especially take Care that there be no defect on their side for want of Cask hereby declaring th<sup>t</sup> whosoever shall be found to obstruct & hinder any of the Ships now lying in the Province in their dispatch out must Expect (upon Complaint made) to be p<sup>r</sup>secuted according to the Utmost Severity of the Law.

Ships not to be cleard after the 25<sup>th</sup> of March And the Sherriffs are to give further Notice to all the Masters Merch<sup>ts</sup> and Traders in generall that such Ships as cannot now be got ready to sail with Cap<sup>t</sup> Daniell by the s<sup>d</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> day of march must not be permitted to goe until further Ord<sup>r</sup> recd: from his Ex<sup>ncy</sup> and Councill appointed to Sitt at the meeting of the Prov<sup>ll</sup> Court in May next whereof the Several Coll<sup>rs</sup> and Navall Officers are to take due Notice and to take Bond of Such as doe get ready for performance of the Severall Matters Contain'd in a former Ord<sup>r</sup> of Councill dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of December last past touching the f fleets making up at Petuxant &<sup>ca</sup> however the Sherriffs are notwithstanding hereby Comanded to shew